

Date: February 4, 2021  
To: Washington, DC Board of Zoning Adjustment  
From: Washington, DC ANC 3/4G Resident, Rick Juneja, 3616 Legation St., NW Washington, DC 20015. (202) 670-5782. [rick550am@gmail.com](mailto:rick550am@gmail.com)  
Re: **Comments in Support of BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project**

Dear Chairman Hill and the entire BZA:

Thank you for considering the Maret School Athletic Field Project, I am writing to offer my Comments in Support of this important school, community and DC project.

I fully support the partnership that has developed between Maret and the ECC for the proposed athletic field on the ECC site. It's a great example of the types of partnerships we need more of in this city, and in our country, because it's truly a win-win-win: The ECC needs additional financial support in order to continue its own important mission, and Maret needs additional athletic field space in order to continue its own important missions. So, it's a win-win for those two organizations.

But why a "win-win-win"? The third constituent in this transaction is the city of Washington and its residents and ECC neighbors. The city gets badly needed field space without needing to spend taxpayer dollars, and the neighbors and residents get a local field for their children to play on when it's not being used by Maret. Maret has a long track record of being a generous neighbor, whether it's letting children use its playground on weekends to opening its campus to the Horizons program each summer. In other words, Maret seeks to share its resources with the surrounding communities.

Maret's planned use of the ECC field would be no different, and I would encourage any of you with hesitations to keep an open mind about what life could be like once the fields have been built: fewer car trips to other neighborhoods for soccer, baseball and lacrosse games; more foot traffic in the neighborhood, and hearing the daytime sounds of young people enjoying sports. All of these benefits are on top of major infrastructure improvements that Maret has committed to doing, including, for example, building a modern stormwater management system.

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need more field space, it would just be available to all of us. However, we don't live in that perfect world. We live in Washington DC, a beautiful city where more and more parents wish to remain and raise their children, but a city where large swaths of land are owned by foreign governments and our own federal government, and are off-limits to District residents. Our city wasn't originally designed to have so many young children looking for field space, and we must get creative to meet the growing need. I applaud both ECC and Maret leadership for finding a solution that benefits all of us.

I believe Maret has been very open to accommodating as many of the neighbor's requests as it can; it has revised its original design many times over, and that's a reflection of how thoughtful and conscientious a partner Maret is today and will be once the fields are ready.

I strongly support the development of this property by Maret and the ECC.

Thank you very much.

Rick Juneja

3616 Legation St, NW

Washington, DC 20015

(202) 670-5782

[rick550am@gmail.com](mailto:rick550am@gmail.com)