

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Malva Daniel Reid <malvadreid@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 5, 2022 5:40 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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Comments of Support

Dear Chairman of the BZA, Frederick L. Hill,

I am writing this letter in support of the BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project. I have been a resident of Ward 4 for over 20 years and drive past Utah and Nebraska, Aves at least twice a day. I am in support of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret 50-year lease that will allow Maret to use the grounds behind the ECC's buildings, as well as the smallest of its four buildings, to create a multi-sport field and baseball diamond with an adjacent parking lot and a restroom/office/storage facility.

My son, Adam graduated from Maret in 2013 and I have been an active alumni parent since that time. While Adam attended Maret, he played soccer and it was always a challenge to find space for the team to practice and play games. We would go to football games at the Duke Ellington Field which was always a safety hazard when it rained because the grounds and walking areas were wet and muddy. The new athletic field on the grounds of the ECC, would make a world of difference for the athletes, students, and parents.

I am supporting this project because I believe in Maret School, its mission and all that it does for its students and community. Maret's mission focuses on the importance of community and the School has always sought to be a good neighbor and member of the DC community. I served on the Maret Board for 6 years and can attest to this firsthand. I have attended countless meetings during my 20-year relationship with the school when Maret has demonstrated over and over its genuine interest in the community when making decisions that could affect them.

Maret has developed long standing relationships with dozens of organizations in the District, including Horizons Greater Washington. Maret has hosted Horizons' six-week summer enrichment program for students from under-resourced communities in Washington, DC, for over 20 years. Maret offers its field and gyms to outside community groups, providing much-needed recreational space to DC residents.

Maret has always been an inclusive partner with the community. Whenever there is an event, new project, or anything that could potentially bring noise or disruption to the neighborhood, Maret provided regular communication to the residents and responded to their concerns in an open forum. Residents of Woodley Park value Maret as a community partner and neighborhood resource. Maret shows respect for the

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neighborhood but regularly reminding faculty, parents, and guests of traffic and parking rules in order to lessen the impact or arrival and dismissal on neighbors in Woodley Park.

Since the outset of its comprehensive and collaborative planning effort, the Maret Team (including school staff and hired experts) has initiated and hosted multiple meetings with neighbors – in person and via virtual meetings. The Team has been responsive to neighbors' requests for detailed information and individual meetings. The Maret team has consistently underscored its goal of respecting the surrounding neighborhood and serving as an asset to the community and the District. Maret has thoughtfully considered feedback received from all interested stakeholders and has made many adjustments and concessions to the plan based on this input.

Having Maret as a partner in Ward 4 would add to the community and its surrounding area. I am in total support of the 50-year lease between ECC and Maret School.

Sincerely,

Malva Daniel Reid
Ward 4 Resident and Maret Parent
3237 Chestnut Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-713-0804
malvadreid@gmail.com

cc: Randy Speck, Chair ANC3/4G
John Higgins, Commissioner ANC 3/4G