

From: [Alisha Commodore](#)
To: [DCOZ - BZA Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project – Comments in Support
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 2:34:30 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from alishacommodore@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Dear Chairman Hill,

I live on 14th and Manchester NW in Ward 4 and am in full support of Maret School's proposed fields project located at the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC).

This partnership between Maret and ECC will carry forward the important missions of two educational institutions – both of which have been located in Washington, DC for over 100 years. In addition, it will make more quality field space accessible to District youth athletic organizations. In short, the proposed field project will benefit a multitude of DC children.

- The ECC has been serving children in need since 1894. Located in Chevy Chase DC since 1930, the ECC selected Maret as a like-minded partner when they needed to leverage their unused real estate to reestablish their important program for children with severe emotional challenges, which ceased in 2019 due to budget constraints.
- Maret currently enrolls 650 students – 58% of whom reside in the District. The school is known for its excellence and inclusion; 25% of its students receive financial aid, and 53% of students identify as students of color. In addition to academics and the arts, athletics are core to the student experience and mission of the school. The school owns one small field and has been on a decades-long search to find a permanent, regulation-size multisport field and baseball diamond to support its high school athletic program.

Maret is also known and respected in the District for its community engagement. A testament to this strong ethos is its commitment to the Horizons Greater Washington program, which is a tuition-free academic and enrichment program serving over 400 students from under-resourced communities in Washington, DC, and Maryland. In 2000, Maret partnered with the national Horizons organization to launch the first Horizons site in Washington. With substantial in-kind support, including free use of its campus for six-weeks in the summer, this program has expanded and grown each year.

- As the parent of young children, I would like to see more high-quality fields for our city's youth leagues. Maret's desire to make the new field and baseball diamond available to DC youth based athletic organizations fills a great need in Washington, DC, and reflects the school's proactive approach to help where it can. New, state-of-the-art turf fields are environmentally friendly and provide a safe surface for sports activities in inclement weather conditions.

Please endorse this plan which will benefit not only Maret students, but will also allow the ECC to reestablish their program to serve local children in need of therapeutic care, as well as expand the excellent field options for DC's many youth athletic programs. Maret has proven itself as a trusted partner with a deep commitment to improving the lives of its students and others in Washington, DC.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.154

Sincerely,
Alisha Commodore
1423 Manchester Lane NW
M: 202.549.0809
E: alishacommodore@gmail.com