

Dear Chairman Hill and Other Members of the BZA:

As a longtime resident of Ward 4 and ANC 3/4G-02, I urge you to approve Maret School's leasing of the Episcopal Children Center's (ECC) unused field.

Comments in Support

I believe this matter boils down to the question:

Which is the greater good? Will the ECC/Maret proposal have sufficient benefit for the whole DC community, now and into the future, to outweigh the present concerns of the 30 or so households that currently live around the field and across the street on Nebraska Avenue?

- The current large, unused field would have no better use than allowing the ECC to restart and thus serve generations of ethnically diverse District children with emotional challenges and their families, as well as the needs of various DC youth groups and many Maret athletes (also diverse).
- In response to concerns raised by the field's neighbors over several months of discussion, the Maret planners have made several adjustments regarding the field's buffer areas, hours of use, traffic, and possible noise. As these discussions have evolved, Maret has been very accommodating and transparent, and I am sure it will remain open to further reasonable concerns. As the parent of two Maret students (and my daughter is presently Chair of the Alum council), I know Maret's leadership is dedicated to doing what is best and fair.
- Over time, regarding the occasional noise and traffic (i.e., only after 3 pm in midweek afternoons and Saturdays), it is likely that the

field's neighbors will regard the redone ECC field as no more bothersome than, for example, what the people who live around Lafayette School feel about its baseball diamonds, playgrounds, and basketball and tennis courts. (And some of the neighbors have welcomed this use of the ECC field).

- However, if the Maret/ECC plan is rejected, that field will remain unused for the time being and the ECC will remain closed. But soon the neighbors are likely to face other construction in that field that they may not be able to influence and that will cause them many months of noise and disruption anyway.

On balance, I believe the overall benefits of the redone field for the ECC, other DC youth groups, and Maret, now and into the future, matter more for DC overall than do the neighbors' current concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,

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resident in Ward Four, ANC 3/4G-02
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