

Holly Mead
3907 Jocelyn St., NW
Washington, DC, 20015
Phone: 202.607.0617
Holly@khmead.com

► **Frederick L. Hill, BZA Chair**

441 4th St., NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.727.6311

Comments in Support of BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletics Field Project

Dear Mr. Hill,

I am writing you to formally voice my support for the Maret-ECC partnerships in anticipation of the upcoming BZA hearing on March 9, 2022. As an ANC 3-4 resident (3907 Jocelyn St. NW), I wholeheartedly believe this partnership and the development of athletic fields by Maret School is a valuable project that will benefit not only Maret and the Episcopal Center for Children, but also the neighborhood and broader DC community.

The renovation of the run down ECC grounds to a baseball diamond and multipurpose field will provided the students at Maret an opportunity to foster their athletic talents alongside their academic pursuits. The new fields will also provide the community with well-maintained and groomed grounds that will be available for community use, including students of ECC and DCPS, and the ECC neighbors. Furthermore, it will include much needed storm water management, which is not currently in place and would benefit many of the surrounding residences.

I am a parent and former neighbor of Maret School, having lived for 20 years in the neighborhood of Woodley Park just a few blocks from Maret, and can attest to the school's enormous efforts to be a good neighbor and valuable community member. We enjoyed the benefits of Maret for 12 years before our children attended the school, playing on the playground, running on the fields, attending their annual Fete, taking in a softball game or soccer tournament, and most importantly enjoying the vitality that the school and its student activities brought to our community. I have no doubt Maret will bring the same energy and joy to the ECC neighborhood with the utmost respect to its neighbors.

In fact, Maret has been working closely with the ANC 3/4g and ECC neighbors to ensure their concerns are heard and addressed. For example, in response to neighborhood feedback, the school has made key changes to the proposal, such as changing the location of scoreboards and batting cages, addressing stormwater management concerns, studying the potential impact on transportation and congestion, and considering specific mitigation strategies. In addition, in an effort to reduce disturbances, Maret will limit use of the fields to daytime and some



weekend hours, will control and fully vet their use by DC youth sports organizations, and will not use any amplified sound equipment. In my opinion, it would be a shame to interfere with this partnership and open up the possibility for housing developments or other uses that may not be as respectful or deferential.

Maret has a long history of being a good neighbor and community partner in Woodley Park. Its mission statement focuses on the importance of community, and it has developed longstanding relationships and partnerships with a multitude of neighbors and community organizations in DC. The ECC and ANC 3/4 would benefit greatly from their presences in the neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Holly Mead
3907 Jocelyn St., NW
Washington, DC 20015