

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Dent, Heather <HDent@cathedral.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 2:18 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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Dear Chairman Hill,

I am writing a **statement in support** of Maret's fields project at the Episcopal Center for Children. As an athletic director of National Cathedral School, I have worked with Maret and their athletic director for 18 years. In terms of a school "doing it the right way", Maret is a leader among our schools, and this opportunity for a new field is vital to their programming which would not only benefit their students but other organizations as well.

In my own experience, I have worked closely with the neighborhood and BZA guidance regarding our own athletic center located at 3490 Woodley RD NW Washington DC 20016. This facility was constructed over 19 years ago, and it remains a game changer in terms of what our school can offer students. The school has collaborated and worked tirelessly to uphold the positive relationship while complying with the BZA. The construction and use of the athletic center changed the course of our athletic programs, and the facility also affords other group's such as youth organizations the access to these resources.

The challenge to secure and find field space for their robust programming has long been a challenge for Maret. Limited by their position in an urban location, the opportunity to build or expand on their campus does not exist. Thus, the school sought a location where they could build, maintain, use, and share a new upgraded space. To say that facilities can be transformational for communities and schools is an understatement. Kids need spaces to play--for all levels of play. Research shows the benefit of exercise to a child's physical, mental, and social well-being, and I believe Maret's pursuit is grounded in that science.

Finding and maximizing partnerships will benefit many constituencies. It is my hope that this project can move forward allowing Maret to provide top notch experiences for their students but also partnering with DC constituencies, which I know to be a priority for the school and the District,

I strongly encourage the BZA to approve Maret's project at the ECC.

Sincerely,

Heather Dent

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.189

Heather D. Dent

Athletic Director

National Cathedral School

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