

FRIENDS OF THE FIELD

Friends of the Field opposes Maret's curb cut in the 5800 block of Nebraska Ave, NW,

Public Space Permit application #383995

We, Friends of the Field, representing more than 250 residents of Chevy Chase, DC, oppose the Maret School's (Maret's) plan for a proposed commercial driveway in the 5800 block of Nebraska Avenue, NW. Maret leases the Nebraska property, described as Sq 2319, Lot 0832, from the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC). The ECC created this lot by subdivision in October 2021. ECC's business address is 5901 Utah Avenue, NW, where their school buildings are located at Sq 2319, Lot 0831.

We recognize Maret's right to lease property from ECC and understand that the lease arrangement will provide welcome revenue to ECC. But this proposal demonstrates a lack of appreciation and respect for the qualities of community that make this a true neighborhood.

Maret's proposal to create a new commercial driveway in the 5800 block of Nebraska Avenue, NW, will dramatically increase safety risks for pedestrians and bicycle users, increase traffic volumes, congestion, and traffic conflicts, and risk or remove street trees. The proposed commercial driveway is adjacent to the ECC campus which has two existing driveway entrances in the 5800 block of Nebraska that might be modified as an alternative to new construction.

The proposed 24-foot-wide commercial driveway is out of place in this R-1-B zoning district. This zoning category is meant to stabilize residential areas; the proposed commercial driveway would be extremely disruptive. Accordingly, we, undersigned Friends of the Field, oppose Maret's proposed commercial driveway in the 5800 block of Nebraska Ave, NW. We believe the proposal should be denied.

Specific points of disagreement:

- (a) Nebraska Ave is a Major Collector, characterized by busy morning and evening rush hours. Although traffic volumes have recently been suppressed due to COVID (work from home) conditions, and a long reconstruction project on Oregon Avenue, when Oregon reopens, the wider, smoother road will almost certainly see traffic volumes return to or surpass pre-pandemic levels. Oregon intersects with Nebraska to create a popular crosstown route from Silver Spring to Connecticut Avenue and beyond. Nebraska traffic would be severely disrupted by the new, out-of-place curb cut.

- (b) Nearby Beach Drive (Rock Creek Park, National Park Service) is functionally classified as a Minor Arterial. It, too, has been closed to vehicular traffic during the COVID pandemic, and may be permanently closed to vehicles, having the effect of further increasing traffic on Nebraska, again, most significantly during morning and evening peak hours.
- (c) The south side of Nebraska Ave. between Moreland Street and Utah Avenue has 15 homes served by residential driveways. Each of these creates traffic conflict points with through traffic on Nebraska. The north side of the 5800 block of Nebraska has one existing residential driveway in addition to the existing institutional driveways serving ECC.
- (d) This is a walk-friendly neighborhood boasting a network of good sidewalks that promote walking for transportation and spontaneous interaction. This pedestrian infrastructure is a critical feature of local social life – as has become apparent under pandemic conditions.
- (e) The surrounding community is home to many families with young and school-age children, who walk and ride bikes daily for school and play. Older adults and seniors are very much in evidence, walking for commutes, health, recreation, and sociability.
- (f) This is a bicycle-friendly neighborhood and community, with Nebraska Avenue providing access to Rock Creek Park to the east, and the Connecticut Avenue corridor to the west. It is popular with bicyclists commuting, and riding for health, fitness, recreation, and utility trips. There are no bicycle facilities on Nebraska, meaning that people on bicycles must mix with motor vehicles in the travel lanes or ride in parking lanes and risk not being seen.

The updated Move DC 21 bicycle priority map shows planned but unfunded bicycle facilities on Nebraska between Connecticut and Oregon. Adding more traffic – and more commercial traffic – is not the way to increase safety for pedestrians and bicycle riders. Any future bicycle facilities would require space in the ROW, likely reducing what is currently parking space.

- (g) Nearby Rock Creek Park is a favorite destination of residents, who often access the park on foot or by bike via Nebraska Avenue.
- (h) ECC already has two commercial entrances and a semi-circular driveway serving the campus. One of these nearest the existing school buildings is proposed to be closed as part of the new commercial driveway application. All these existing curb cuts are close to the signalized intersection of Nebraska and Utah, where automated traffic controls help regulate vehicle movements. While there are frequent bottlenecks at this intersection now, any additional curb cut would likely make conditions worse.

- (i) The proposed driveway would risk or require removing established street trees and would likely threaten an ancient heritage tree that has its own dedicated retaining wall.
- (j) Maret plans bus pick-up drop-off adjacent to the proposed new driveway. Parked buses here would severely limit sightlines, especially when considered together with the grade of the roadway, and the presence of many pedestrians and people on bicycles and scooters.

Finally, we reference a July 10, 2019, letter from ANC 4C, supporting their neighboring ANC 1A. They urged then-DDOT Director Jeff Marootian and the Office of Planning to adopt a new standard for approving curb cuts and driveways. They wrote that the then-current standard for approving curb cuts was based on a "do no harm" standard.

That standard had perhaps made sense in a shrinking city, hungry for development, but it was no longer enough merely to prevent harm. They argued that the loss of public space must produce an actual benefit. ANC 4C wrote: "DDOT must instead presume that permit applications for driveways and curb cuts will be denied unless there is a clear and compelling reason that such a permit will benefit the community and long-term goals of the District." In 2022 the long-term goals of the District which must be considered include important initiatives like Vision Zero and Climate Ready DC.

We reiterate that the present proposal runs counter to such forward-looking District policies, and should not be approved.

Respectfully,

Friends of the Field



Friends of the Field, an alliance of Chevy Chase neighbors, families, and concerned citizens, cares about safety, environmental stewardship, and quality neighborhood life. We work for transparent due process, inclusiveness, and thoughtful use of precious green space.

Name: R Shapiro
 Signature: Richard Shapiro
 Address: 5905 32nd St. NW

~~KENNETH I. AUSTIN~~
~~5864 NEBRASKA AVE, NW~~
~~DC 20015~~ see next page

Add comment

Name: PHILIP A BRANTON
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 3124 OLIVER ST NW
20015

Add comment

Name: Ellen F. Lazarus
 Signature: Ellen F Lazarus
 Address: 3124 Oliver St. NW 20015

Add comment

Name: Jill MacNeice
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5723 Nebraska Ave NW 20015

Add comment

Name: Michael Bukowski
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2900 Rittenhouse St NW

ECC has ample DRIVEWAYS AROUND its Nebraska Ave bldgs that can be ingress/egress to the property. ECC/Maret should build the parking lot in between the existing bldgs.

Add comment

Name: Joe Komisar
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5865 Nebraska Ave NW

Add comment

Name: NANCY VOISIN
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6004 28th St NW

I strongly oppose the taking of Public Space for this private use, with No justification.

Add comment

Name: Thierry Rosphede
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5723 Nebraska Ave NW
DC

Traffic consequence -
 concerned about queuing
 & safety implication -
 once pick up & drop off take
 place -
 Add comment

Name: Phyllis Stubb
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2800 Rittenhouse St NW

Add comment

Name: Joseph Mary
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 12015 Rittenhouse St.
NW

Add comment

Name: Eric Campbell
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2809 Rittenhouse St NW

Add comment

Name: Candi Campbell
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2809 Rittenhouse St NW

Add comment

Name: Gretchen Romweber
 Signature: GRETCHEN ROMWEBER
 Address: 2900 RITTENHOUSE ST,
NW

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Name: Jaclyn Kilroy
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2916 R. HENHOUSE ST. NW.

Add comment

February 11, 2022

PETITION

friendsofthefield20015@gmail.com

Name: Jonathan Axelrod
Signature: Jonathan Axelrod
Address: 2832 Rittenhouse ST NW

Add comment

Name: David Patton
Signature: David Patton
Address: 6007 28th ST NW

Add comment

Name: CAROL ZACHARY
Signature: Carol Zachary
Address: 2832 Rittenhouse NW

No more.
Use what's there already.
Add comment

Name: BRIAN STEARNS
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 5829 NEBRASKA AVE,
N.W.

Add comment

Name: DIANA BULGER
Signature: Diana L. Bulger
Address: 6000 NEBRASKA AVE,
WDC 20015 N.W.

Add comment

Name: Thomas J. Bulger
Signature: Thomas J. Bulger
Address: 6000 Nebraska Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015

Add comment

Name: Frank Buchholz
Signature: Frank Buchholz
Address: 5877 Nebraska Ave

Add comment

Name: GRACE MCNALLY
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 6007 25th St. NW

Add comment

Name: Barbara Lanphier
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 6120 Oregon Ave NW

Add comment

Name: KENNETH J. AUSTIN
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 5864 NEBR. AVE, NW

Add comment

Name: Cam Campbell
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 2809 R. Henderson

Add comment

Name: Jennifer Anderson
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 2920 Rittenhouse St.

Add comment

Name: Daniel Burdeinick
 Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
 Address: 2920 Rittenhouse St

Add comment

Name: Laura McCaffrey
 Signature: Laura McCaffrey
 Address: 2924 Rittenhouse St, NW

Add comment

Name: Mark McCaffrey
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2924 Pothouse St. NW
Washington, DC 20015

Add comment

Name: Lelia Zanner Moors
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6019 Utah Ave NW

Add comment

Name: Sheppard J. Ransom
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6008 Utah Ave, NW

Add comment

Name: Jaimie Shafter
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6007 Utah Ave NW

Add comment

Name: Tom Fletcher
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6001 Utah Ave NW

Add comment

Name: Sarah Fletcher
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6001 Utah Ave NW

Add comment

Name: Marcello Abbate
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5539 UTAH AV. NW
WASH. DC 20015

Add comment

Name: Jack Delgado
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 3107 Patterson P.L.N.W

Add comment

Name: MARIA DELGADO
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 3107 PATTERSON PK NW
20015

Add comment

Name: RICK MATTINGLY
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2925 RITTENHOUSE ST NW
20015

Add comment

Name: Terry Mattingly
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2925 RITTENHOUSE ST NW
20015

Add comment

Name: Joseph McGuire
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2907 RITTENHOUSE ST NW

Add comment

Name: PAUL FISHER
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5935 VTAH AVE NW

Add comment

Name: Willa M. Golden
 Signature: Willa M. Golden
 Address: 6012-78TH ST NW

Add comment

Name: SANDRA CILCAR

Signature: *Sandra Cilcar*

Address: 5861 NEBRASKA AVE NW

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Name: JOSEPH J FORCIORFF

Signature: *Joseph J Forciorff*

Address: 5857 NEBRASKA AVE NW

Add comment

Name: Kimberly J Forcier

Signature: *Kimberly J Forcier*

Address: 5857 Nebraska Ave NW

Add comment

Name: CLAUDIA RUSSELL

Signature: *Claudia J Russell*

Address: 5860 Nebraska Ave

Add comment

Name: GLADYS S AUSTIN

Signature: *GLADYS S AUSTIN*

Address: 5869 Nebraska Avenue NW

Add comment

Name: Jesse Gaylord

Signature: *Jesse Gaylord*

Address: 5873 Nebraska Avenue NW

Add comment

Name: Laura Lorenzo

Signature: *Laura M Lorenzo*

Address: 5865 Nebraska Avenue NW

Add comment

February 11, 2022

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friendsofthefield20015@gmail.com

Name: Amber Goldin
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 6012-28th St. N.W

Add comment

Name: Amirachi Thompson
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 6012 28th St NW

Add comment

Name: Valeria Macedo
Signature: Valeria Macedo
Address: 5645 Nebraska Ave

Add comment

Name: Michelle Haley
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 5881 Nebraska Ave
Washington DC 20005

Add comment

Name: KYLE HALEY
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 5881 NEBRASKA AVE

Add comment

Name: JOSEPH SUTHERLAND
Signature: 5969 NEBRASKA AVE.
Address: _____

signed by permission
Add comment

Name: ANN D. SUTHERLAND
Signature: _____
Address: 5969 NEBRASKA AVE.

signed by permission
Add comment

Name: Susan Mann
 Signature: Susan Mann
 Address: 2740 Rittenhouse St

Add comment

Name: Sean Fitzpatrick
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 2761 Rittenhouse St NW

Add comment

Name: Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
 Signature: Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
 Address: 2701 Rittenhouse St NW

Add comment

Name: Catherine Riset
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 6001 Nebraska Ave NW

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

Add comment



From: celesteregan@aol.com
 Subject: Petition
 Date: February 13, 2022 at 6:09 PM
 To: Claudia Russell cjrussell@erols.com
 Cc: Sam Smith ssmith7673@aol.com

February 11, 2022

PETITION

friendsofthefield20015@gma

Name: Celeste Regan
 Signature: Celeste Regan
 Address: 5833 Nebraska Ave

Add comment

Name: Sam Smith
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: 5833 Nebraska Ave

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

Add comment

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____

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February 11, 2022

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friendsofthefield20015@gmail.com

Name: Erin Conroy
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 6011 Utah Ave NW

Add comment

Name: Louise Eighmie Turner
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 6020 28th Street NW

Add comment

Name: John C. Lawrence
Signature: John C. Lawrence
Address: 6104 Nebraska Ave, NW
Wash., DC 20015

Add comment

Name: Mary Louise Wagner
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 5458 30^F Street, NW
Washington DC 20015

Add comment

Name: Kevin Billings
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 5458 30^F Street, NW
Washington DC 20015

Add comment

Name: GEORGE FLETCHER
Signature: [Signature]
Address: 2732 Rittenhouse St, NW.
Washington DC 20015

Add comment

Name: Iman Ahmad
Signature: Iman Ahmad
Address: 2750 Rittenhouse St NW
Washington DC 20015

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