

Comments in Support of The Episcopal Center
February 21, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the proposed re-opening of the Episcopal Center for Children(ECC) in conjunction with Maret School's partnership and use of the backfield and one of the Center's buildings.

I had a long and positive history with ECC during my career as a special education administrator and teacher. My professional relationship with the Episcopal Center for Children began in 1977 while working as a Liaison Teacher with the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). In this capacity, I referred and placed students at ECC with significant emotional and behavioral issues. In addition to making academic progress, students thrived in ECC's nurturing and therapeutic atmosphere.

When I left ACPS I was invited by Alan Korz, the Executive Director at the time, to work for the Center as an independent contractor supervising newly hired teachers. Ultimately, my position segued to part-time work and I co-taught with various teachers to maximize individual instruction in the self-contained classes. I held this position until January 2016.

In addition to my nearly 20-year professional relationship with ECC, and as a nearby resident of Barnaby Woods since 1988, I viewed the Center as a long-standing, good neighbor.

Re-opening ECC will provide crucial services for an under-served population of children in our community. It is my understanding that ECC needs the funding from this partnership to open, and that they need to leverage their unused land so they can resume helping the many children that stand in need of the specialized services that ECC provides. The strain of the pandemic has resulted in a number of mental health issues for children and their families. At this crucial time for our community, the ECC's reopening is both welcome and necessary.

With best regards,

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