

February 22, 2022

Frederick Hill
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia

Dear Mr. Hill:

As owners and residents of the home at 6214 29th Street, NW, we write in strong support of the proposed partnership between the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret School. As neighbors who live very close to ECC, the proposal is ideal to meet the needs of our local community and the families who live here.

Access to open space and exercise are critical for child development and mental and physical health. As a family with a young child, we have tried to use the ECC fields during the pandemic to give our son access to a nearby open field but were prevented by a policeman from throwing a frisbee on the vacant, unoccupied field. The proposed ECC-Maret partnership would allow us as local residents to use a much-improved and closeby open space and would be a major benefit to our family's physical and mental health during a challenging time. At the same time, it would not increase residential density or cause significant disruptions or quality of life concerns in this quiet residential neighborhood.

As a 7th grade student at Maret, our son currently has limited access to space on school fields where he can exercise and participate in outdoor team sports. He and many other District children would benefit greatly if this partnership goes forward to allow Maret students, community members, and a limited number of youth sports organizations to play sports on quality playing fields that are currently scarce in this area. In these challenging times in particular, physically distanced outdoor play time is a critical local resource for our neighborhood's kids and families.

The proposal as described is both very reasonable and in the best interests of this neighborhood as well as the ECC and Maret communities. Please contact us at Peter_Zamora@hotmail.com and MarcelaGUrrutia@hotmail.com if we can provide additional information regarding our strong support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Peter and Marcela Zamora
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