



**Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood
Commissioner Alison Brooks, SMD 4B08**

BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

Dear Mr. Hill,

As an ANC Chair and parent of a Maret Alumnus, I have a special insight to this project and understand how the ANC and BZA can greatly influence the outcome of this situation. There is not often in life when you can look at one moment in time and determine when you were able to make a difference in the lives of many. This is that opportunity and I want that opportunity for as many young ladies and young men as possible. By supporting this project, you are helping many. I am submitting my support for the Maret Fields project and ask that you do as well.

In a recent meeting, many community members asked why we should allow Maret to continue with this deal. I am glad to have the opportunity to explain why the project between two private entities has my support.

ECC needs to find a leasee to continue to fund the great work they provide. Because they need to find an additional income stream and because Maret needs space for sports activities, this partnership can be advantageous to everyone. It allows ECC to continue its great work, it affords the Maret Sports program a home and it activates and opens the field to community neighbors.

Maret has a track record of being a good and transparent neighbor. Currently located in a DC neighborhood much like the proposed location, the campus is used regularly by external groups as well as members of the community playing on the playground or exercising on the green space. Annually, Maret hosts events open to the community as well as adds volunteer days to the school calendar so that students can learn the value of giving back. Anyone that suggests that Maret staff, parents or students would mistreat the field, the neighborhood, or the community that we would be so happy to join, is creating a paper tiger to fight. The school has a history of giving back and anyone could ask its current community how we support and value it. "Respect & Integrity" is one of Maret's core principles and is integral to how we as a community engage others. A quote from the Maret webpage reads, "Our faculty serve as mentors

and teach our students to do what is right even when it's hard", and I speak from first-hand experience when I say that they are doing a great job. My son is a true Maret success story, his values being compromised not only from the teachings of his parents but of the community values he curated during his time within the Maret community. Education and sports can be life changing, and being part of the Maret community my family was able to experience that firsthand. My son had the opportunity to graduate from Maret with lifelong friendships and attend college for free because of the sports programming that Maret has developed. Just imagine, how much more they could do and how many more students they could help with increased resources. Supporting this project could afford them that opportunity.

Now, let's dispel a few misconceptions. Maret is not gobbling up space throughout the ward in some secret conspiracy.

- The original plan has changed as Maret received community input. Maret is not gobbling up space throughout the ward in some secret conspiracy.
- Maret has contracted use of the Jelleff Field and while ANC2E07 has requested a commitment and a timeline to vacate the property, Maret cannot commit to that until this process has been completed. The use of the Jelleff field was addressed and should not be a part of this discussion.
- The District of Columbia is an urban environment and every area of the city has increased traffic and parking issues. We all work together and no community or friend of the community is immune. Traffic and parking are components of city life. Maret has submitted a traffic plan and has always adhered to the traffic plan in Woodley Park.

I encourage ANC 3/4G and the BZA to vote in favor of this project even if you think it's hard because in this instance, it would be the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Alison Brooks
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