

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Brooke daniel <brookeds882@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 8:51 AM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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Dear Chairman Hill,

I am a lifelong Washington, DC resident and a 2019 graduate of Maret School. I encourage the BZA to approve Maret's field project at the Episcopal Center for Children.

While at Maret, I managed the varsity football team for four years. As a student at Miami University (Ohio), I now am majoring in Sport Leadership and Management and work for the football team in a similar role as I did for Maret. I hope to work in professional sports after college, hopefully football. This has been my desired career path since I was young. I credit Maret's football program and the school for giving me the support and opportunity to gain experience that helped lead to my job at Miami. The experience taught me a lot of important career and life skills applicable to more than just football.

As the manager of the team, I also experienced the frustrations first hand in not having our own home field and constrained practice space.

We depended on other schools to host our home games or we had to rent other fields in the city. Every game had another school's logo in the middle of the field. We often played home games at multiple fields over the course of a season.

We had to share our small campus field with other teams for our practices. This limited what could be done during practice, often leading towards a slightly later practice schedule to allow for some time at the end of practice to have more space. Occasionally, the space was even more limited when we would be left with even less space due to JV soccer games. Those times also required attention to go to watching out for errant balls, both from football practice and the game going on.

We almost never practiced on a field with football lines or goalposts. The marks on a football field are vital to correctly lining up play formations. The first time many kids got to actually line up in formations with the correct spacing was the first game of the season. Additionally, instead of goalposts, we had to use the top of a soccer goal to mimic the crossbar of a goalpost and judge if it went inside the would be posts.

Despite the challenges, the coaches and players adapted. The team has been successful and has won three out of the past five state championships. While resilience is admired, I think Maret and our teams deserve better. They deserve a field of their own. No team, football or otherwise, should be forced to share a field with more than one other team. Football having their own field will benefit all fall athletes, football and otherwise.

Please approve this project, not just for Maret athletes, but for the many young athletes in the city who will have access to this excellent field space.

Sincerely,

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20643  
EXHIBIT NO.231

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