

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: jbess <jdbess@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:10 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)
Subject: BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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March 2, 2022

RE: BZA Application No. 20643
Maret School Athletic Fields Project
Comments in Support

TO: Mr. Frederick L. Hill
Chairman Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)

From: John D. Bess
5525 16th Street, NW (Ward 4)
Washington, DC 20011
(202) 722-9057 jdbess@aol.com

Dear Mr. Hill,

My name is John Bess. I am a native Washingtonian, and a continuous Ward 4 resident since 1977. My wife and I raised four children in this city; two (2) are graduates of DC Public Schools and two (2) are graduates of Maret School.

I fully support the proposal to develop an athletic field on the under used field space of ECC. I write to pray BZA to consider the benefits of community partnerships as you study the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC), and Maret School Athletic Fields Project. The proposal offers a win – win for the citizens of the District in more ways than I can point out in this letter. Nevertheless, I will highlight a few reasons why I support the Project:

- The District and even more directly the residents of Ward 3, 4, and 2 will gain a high quality athletic field, at minimal cost from the DC budget. It will be the only privately owned and managed athletic field in the area that allows public use.
- The new field will reduce the congestion on other athletic fields throughout the city.
- The field is planned with utmost consideration to the impact on the environment. Special attention to storm water runoff, preservation of valued trees and landscape, and neighborhood traffic flow.
- The project will not inhibit the important work of ECC.

Maret School has a long and trusted history of sharing resources with the community. For as long as I can remember, Maret School has opened their on-campus gymnasium, athletic field, library, and

auditorium at no cost to individuals, teams or groups who apply for usage. Maret School's norm of opening their facilities to struggling programs has sometimes made the difference between whether a team can compete with other teams.

Once again, I implore BZA to consider the Episcopal Center for Children and Maret School Athletic Fields Project in a favorable light. The benefits of the completed Project are endless.

Thank you,

John D. Bess