

Frederick L. Hill  
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment

Dea Chairman Hill,

I write to you with a very passionate plea involving fields and youth sports in DC. My name is Antoine Williams, I am a Washingtonian and have lived here all my life in wards 1, 4, 5 and 2. I am the Founder of a non-profit youth sports organization known as DC Dynasty Baseball. A big reason I started this non-profit is because I believe that every youth deserves an opportunity to participate in athletic programs with great coaching, competition, and appropriate resources. However, none of this is possible without sufficient courts, and fields.

Growing up in the city, there never seemed to be enough fields for year round sports. More specifically, baseball fields and even more exact 90 foot diamonds. As it currently stands, my non-profit youth program only has access to two 90 foot diamonds. With 12 teams, and almost 300 participants, we use Banneker Field (NW), and Dwight Mosley (NE) as our only 90 foot diamonds. The scarcity of fields means less practice time and more travel outside of the city for games. An incredible 85% of our participants are DC residents, and would much rather stay in the great city of DC for youth sports.

Since our inception in 2002, The Maret School has been partners in our mission to help find space for our student athletes. We have trained on their campus for the last 7 years, and we have been received with great enthusiasm from the Maret community. As a Washingtonian, I know Maret has strong ties and wants to feel connected to the immediate community. They have shared field space, given up field space, and have donated field space and time to many youth organizations and programs.

My organization strongly supports Maret's objective to build more field space at ECC. It is my understanding that the space will be both a multipurpose field as well as a baseball diamond. This would make us very happy, and would continue to give our youth a chance to participate and get outside. These young folks deserve to play and compete on top notch fields and facilities. In looking at the plans, this appears to be a top facility in the heart of DC. We hope that we can look forward to and be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony of this project in the near future. If I can be of any help, or if you have more questions, please feel free to reach me at my email address below.

Best Regards,

Antoine Williams  
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