

Date: February 26, 2022

Dear Chairman Hill and BZA Commissioners:

I am writing to indicate my serious concerns regarding the imposition of the Maret School sports complex proposed for my neighborhood.

1. It would be **environmentally insensitive** to remove forty well-established trees and topsoil and replace them with 3.7 acres of artificial turf, with additional hardscape for parking and sidewalks. This would essentially destroy the contribution that natural vegetation and topsoil make to the environment. Artificial turf's contribution to the heat island effect is well-documented. Also numerous studies have shown that artificial turf is clearly **harmful to the health of people who play on this surface**.

2. This proposal would create a **safety problem** for a neighborhood known for supporting and protecting its children (more than 50 of whom live next to the proposed complex). Everyday pick-up and drop-off for the sports complex would occur at the same time as heavy commuter traffic, and traffic generated by the Episcopal Center for Children when it reopens.

3. As you are aware, Maret and others' use of the site would likely **overwhelm our neighborhood streets** with traffic and parked cars nearly every day. Game days would bring congestion and noise akin to what we experience from other nearby fields, most notably St. John's College High School less than a mile away. The two sports facilities might frequently have concurrent "game days," compounding the problem.

4. High retaining walls required to level the 35-foot elevation change across the site would **dwarf the scale of our homes**.

5. **Noise** would be a constant concern. The maximum allowable sound level in this zoning district is 60 dB, and sports activities regularly exceed that limit.

I object to Maret's proposal to disrupt our neighborhood - for the above stated reasons. In addition, I do not want this to set a precedent for future development in our city.

Respectfully,

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Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20643  
EXHIBIT NO.241