

March 1, 2022

To: Commissioner Hill
From: David Kempler
Re: Episcopal Center

I have lived near the Episcopal Center for more than 40 years. I support their mission and am hopeful that they can start operations again.

After much thought, I am opposed to the Maret plan because of the removal of trees and the increased noise and traffic that would drastically destroy the neighborhood's character and negatively impact the residents.

First, removing 40 plus trees and using so much artificial turf can create various health problems for neighbors and players using the field.

Secondly, the noise level and automobile traffic will cause serious problems. I already hear the noise from St. Johns' field on game days. Fans of St. Johns must park many blocks from the field. Maret games will cause more noise and parking problems. If Maret or their subtenants have games with fans on the same day as St. Johns, traffic and parking will become major problems from Military Road NW to Western Avenue. Also, since Maret would be allowed to sublet the field the noise and parking issues will be constant.

Third, the construction of a parking lot across the street from residences would be an eyesore that not only ruins the character of the surrounding neighborhood but could easily result in a substantial decrease in the value of homes in the neighborhood.

Maret's sports field construction offers no compensating plusses to the neighborhood. The construction benefits only Maret, a private school not located in Chevy Chase, D.C. With games, practices, and Maret's subletting of the fields, neighborhood kids will have little, if any, use of the sports field. The traffic, noise, environmental damage, and eyesore parking lot will negatively affect Chevy Chase, D.C. residents.

Maret should look elsewhere to expand its sports fields.

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