

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Karin Perkins <karinperkins@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 8:32 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Case #20643

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Dear BZA:

Regarding BZA Case # 20643, I am writing to support the ANC 3/4G condition that “Maret shall negotiate with DPR to end its agreement for use of the Jelleff field at 3265 S Street, NW - including both Maret’s obligations for maintenance of the field and Maret’s preferential use of the field - effective when the Athletic Facilities Project is complete and operational. Maret shall report to ANC 3/4G and ANC 2E on its efforts to negotiate an expeditious end to the Jelleff field agreement with DPR.”

I am a long-time parent advocate for public schools in DC, particularly in the Wilson feeder pattern. I have been chair of the Local School Advisory Team at Murch, Deal and Wilson, and am currently co-chair of the Ward 3 Education Network (though I write in my individual capacity and not on behalf of W3EdNet). I also serve on DCPS’s Community Working Group to address overcrowding in the Wilson feeder pattern. Additionally, I was a long-time board member of DC Stoddert Soccer (now DC Soccer Club). I have significant experience working to secure facilities, including playing fields, for our local public schools and for non-profit youth sports organizations.

While Maret has been a good steward of Jelleff during the course of its lease, and while I am acutely aware of the challenges Maret, like others, have faced in securing playing fields, I am strongly opposed to a single private school - many of whose students are not DC residents - controlling access to any more field space than necessary in a part of the city where public schools’ needs are not being met.

Jelleff is a public resource that should be available first and foremost to public entities in DC. This is particularly important when public schools like Hardy Middle School, within shouting distance of Jelleff, lack adequate athletic fields. With the completion of a field complex at ECC, Maret should be compelled to negotiate an immediate end to its lease of Jelleff.

Thank you,

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20643
EXHIBIT NO.266