

7 March 2022

Mary M. Callahan
6008 Utah Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20015-1619

Mr. Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
DC Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: BZA No. 20643 Application of The Maret School

Dear Chairperson Hill,

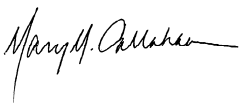
I am signing off on this letter to **object** to the application of The Maret School to build a sports facility on the property at 5901 Nebraska Avenue, NW, DC on a day in early March 2022 when the temperature in the District of Columbia reached 75 degrees. I object to the proposed development because it would approve a 50-year lease that lacks a 50-year plan.

In particular, the proposed development of a sports facility by The Maret School, as currently designed, does not satisfy concerns for development in the face of climate change, now and into the future. The plan to build yet another artificial turf playing field in the District of Columbia comes at a time when other communities across the country are moving to restrict or reject the use of such fields due to growing concerns about their impact on the environment and the safety of those who use the fields--especially, the safety of the children and coaches who play on them. These concerns about contamination of air and water and injuries to athletes have been expressed and documented in other letters and materials that have been put before the BZA.

The proposed field will remove acres of natural ecosystem and cover it with plastic. The plans to remediate the problems that will create for the environment are not only inadequate, they do not meet current standards and even some of the District's goals to prepare for climate change. The design of the development contains a storm management plan to accommodate flooding from a 25-year storm, yet the current EPA standard for storm water runoff calls for preparation for a 50-year storm. Moreover, the removal of so much of the natural ecosystem will create a new heat island in the District at a time when Urban Forestry has been working to increase the tree canopy of the city in the face of persistently rising temperatures.

I support the concern of Friends of the Field about the negative effects that locating an artificial turf sports facility in a R-B-1 neighborhood, in particular one located uphill from Rock Creek, will have on the surrounding environment and the people who live in it as well as those who will be using the facility itself.

Sincerely,



Mary M. Callahan