

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

---

**From:** Reid, Robert (DCOZ)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 6:01 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Written testimony BZA Application No. 20643

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Robert I. Reid  
Zoning Specialist  
Office of Zoning  
441 4th Street N.W., Suite 200-South  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Tel:(202)727-5471  
robert.reid@dc.gov

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Paul Fisher <paul@snapfisher.net>  
**Date:** March 9, 2022 at 5:46:16 PM EST  
**To:** "Reid, Robert (DCOZ)" <robert.reid@dc.gov>  
**Subject:** **Written testimony BZA Application No. 20643**

You don't often get email from paul@snapfisher.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Mr Reid.

Chairman Hill requested that I submit my spoken testimony as written testimony for the record. This is in the Maret application 20643.

Thank you very much.

Paul Fisher

-----

Good afternoon. My name is Paul Fisher and I live at 5935 Utah Avenue NW, adjacent to the Utah Avenue alley which abuts the ECC property. I am a member of the Friends of the Field. If this sports complex is built, I will be able to look down from my office window at the football goalpost, which is directly across from my property line about 12 feet from the ECC property line.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20643  
EXHIBIT NO.277

Before I speak about the personal effects this project will have on my family and me, I would like to touch on a fact of which I believe the proponents of this sports complex are misrepresenting. This is the claim that there is not enough field space for use in the city. This is a claim that keeps being repeated, and no one seems to be able to present any evidence that establishes a factual basis for it. Over the last decade there have been many projects which could have had field space added to them, Walter Reed is but the latest example, yet the city does not. If the city were to make all DCPS fields available, there would be a ton of field space available, but again, it does not. These two facts demonstrate that there really is not a lack of field space in the District, but rather that field space for private schools is a low priority for the city council that represents the District as a whole. A single neighborhood, zoned R-1-B, should not have to endure objectionable conditions in order to advance a private party's priority that is not a priority for the District.

As has already been stated, there will be extreme noise annoyance on my property from not only the sounds of High School and paid athletic programs, but whistles, the lacrosse shot clock and organized crowds, all of which will be over 60 dB. The majority of these I consider commercial activity since Maret is leasing the fields to these other organizations for profit. I am extremely concerned that Maret is not guaranteeing that they will have seating for all spectators. They estimate that they can have up to 300 folks watching some games, and if these people are allowed to stand all around the field, the crowd noise will be magnified in every direction. This will impact all of the direct neighbors of the property as well as myself. I fully support the Friends' "one field" proposal but in the event the special exception is approved, I'd like to request that it be mandated that Maret provide bleacher seating for all spectators at all events.

Finally, I'd like to touch on the continually stated fact that the ECC should reopen. Now, it may have been the finest educational program for special needs kids in existence, but the only items that have been proven are a) that the ECC does not have a sustainable business model because b) there is a limit to the amount of money that the city will pay to educate these students. Neither of these facts has changed since the ECC's 2019 closure. I have personally asked numerous times to see the lease between the ECC and Maret. They have declined to present it, which may be their right, however without this information, I have not been able to determine how this lease can give the ECC enough cash to remain solvent. There is a serious risk that down the road, the ECC will still become defunct. This will have dual ramifications, the first being that my neighbors and I will have been sold adverse conditions for no purpose other than increasing Maret's coffers; ... the second being that ECC's future downfall and Maret's departure could leave the field in an irremediable state and full of toxic chemicals. ECC has let their facilities fall into disrepair before, even purposefully disregarding BZA orders.

Thank you.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows