

BZA Case No. 21314 - Case Name: Burleith Citizens Association - Comments in Opposition

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To DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-BZASubmissions@dc.gov>

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Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment,

I write to submit Comments in Opposition to the Burleith Citizens Association's appeal in Case No. 21314.

I have lived at my current address, 3538 S Street, NW, since June 2002. I live about 3 blocks from the Duke Ellington field. I have used the Duke Ellington field for fun and recreation since moving to my current home in 2002.

My use of the Duke Ellington field has been greatly limited by the lack of any lighting at the field.

I have mainly used the track at the Duke Ellington field for jogging and walking. Once I started coaching youth soccer in 2013, I would also use the field to practice soccer which was mainly kicking a soccer ball around with my younger daughter who played soccer on the soccer teams that I coached.

The lack of lighting at the Duke Ellington field has always restricted my use of the field for jogging and exercise and for kicking a soccer ball around with my daughter because of how early it gets dark in the mid- to late fall through late winter, basically, from late October to early March. During the mid- to late fall and winter months, I cannot get home early enough from work to use the track before it gets dark. Even on weekends, it was hard to get to the track before it would get dark around 5 or 6 because I tended to run errands in the afternoons on the weekend. Without lighting, there has always been a significant chunk of the year, again, basically late October to early March, when it was very difficult to use the track or field at the Duke Ellington field.

I support having lighting at the Duke Ellington field so I can more frequently use the track for jogging and exercise and use the field to kick a soccer ball around with my daughter. My youngest daughter joined the frisbee team at Jackson-Reed High School. I would also like to use the field to throw the frisbee around with her. I will not jog on the track in the dark when I cannot see clearly where I am running, and I cannot kick the soccer ball around or throw the frisbee around in the dark.

Accordingly, I support lighting at the Duke Ellington field and oppose the appeal of the Burleith Citizens Association.

Thank you,

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