

Date: January 11, 2022

Board of Zoning Adjustment
of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Support for BZA Case No. 20593
Blessed Sacrament - Recreational Playing Field Continued Use

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I'm writing to let you know that I strongly support the Blessed Sacrament Recreational Field. I'm a neighbor and my family loves having children play in that spot. We also love having this green, open space beside us. We live adjacent to the church, school, and rectory. And, as such we put up with the traffic and bustle that come with a vibrant church and school. Being able to access and use the field has become an important part of our neighborhood, and one way we can come together—neighbors and BSS—in a location and in a way that benefits us both. We had a Thanksgiving Day family neighbors touch football game there. I helped my son learn how to play the soccer goalie position on the field, and I've watched children exercise there, gathering in small groups to do calisthenics or run sprints. This is a space that helps keep our children active and healthy.

The school only uses the field during the school day, including after-school programs. Our neighborhood children only use the field after 4pm weekdays and before 6:30pm everyday. We've been incredibly respectful of noise, rules, and terms of use. It is only used by a small group of neighbors, which includes square 1862. We've done everything we can to ensure the field is used properly. We strongly feel that this field should remain open and accessible to those that live beside it under the current rules, meaning that neighbors in squares 1862, 1863, and 1864 have continued access during afterschool hours and on weekends before 6:30pm.

This field is such an integral part of our community. Now, at a time when we can only gather outside, so many school days are virtual, and many student activities have been canceled, we need this space for our children more than ever. It also ties the church/school property to the neighborhood and makes us much more of a cohesive community.

I hate to think about what would happen if the zoning changed: would another building go up in its place, a condo or multi-unit house, which would lead to more traffic and more noise? To our ears, the sound of children playing is precious. This field is important for our physical and mental health, and it is a tranquil spot where our community can come together. To see this be lost would be a shame.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like further information.

Respectfully,
Erica J. Green
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20593
EXHIBIT NO.37