

January 15, 2022

Board of Zoning Adjustment
D.C. Office of Zoning
441 4th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Board of Zoning Adjustment Case #20643: Maret School

To the Board:

I am writing to reiterate my concerns regarding the imposition of the Maret School sports complex proposed for my neighborhood. I recently voiced my objections to the project, noting: (1) its significant negative environmental impact; (2) safety concerns for the neighborhood's children, most of whom walk to nearby Lafayette Elementary School; (3) substantial traffic and noise issues; (4) potential disruption of the family character of the neighborhood; (5) unsightly and incongruent retaining walls.

This proposal also sends a disturbing message to District residents as a whole – that an institution (or group of people) with enough money can bully its way into the neighborhood of its choosing to benefit its own small community of high-income families, to the detriment of the environment and the neighborhood population. Maret has in the past used its money to displace public school students from the athletic fields at Jelleff. Now it is trying to use its financial clout to reconfigure an entire residential neighborhood.

Finally, as an avid supporter and frequenter of Rock Creek Park, I am hugely concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed construction, both symbolically and in fact. The District has recently invested a significant amount of money, time and effort in this neighborhood to improve the environmental impact of water run-off into Rock Creek, e.g. by adding natural filtration bays along Northampton Street, etc. That is the direction that our construction efforts should take, at a time when our planet is very much in peril.

Respectfully,



Ursula Werner
3004 Oliver St. NW
Washington, DC 20015