

## Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

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**From:** Spyros & Irene Xenakis <sixenakis@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2022 9:10 PM  
**To:** DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)  
**Cc:** Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)  
**Subject:** "BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project"- "Comments in Support"-  
Attention: Chairman of the BZA Frederick L. Hill

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February 14, 2022

Chairman of the BZA, Frederick L. Hill  
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Hill,

Subject: "BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project" – Comments in Support

We write this statement in full support of Maret's proposed fields at the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) site.

Our family has lived at 2933 Garfield Street, located directly behind Maret's Gym and Field, for nearly 40 years. Our son graduated from Maret in 1999. Since then, our connection to the school has continued as a neighbor. We can speak to the integrity of Maret as a good neighbor and to the overall value of living next to a school.

Schools in neighborhoods add to the feel and vitality of a neighborhood. Those of us in Woodley Park have found that schools located in our residential neighborhood is a blessing and make our neighborhood strong, rather than adversely impacting those of us who live here. We take pride in Maret, Oyster Bilingual, John Eaton, Aiden Montessori, and Washington International School – all of which are located in our neighborhood.

Over the course of the years, Maret has expanded its facilities on its campus to accommodate its programs and students. As an architect, Irene has worked closely with the school as they have presented their plans to our neighbors. Maret has always been accommodating and adjusted design elements in response to feedback from adjacent property owners and residents. For every construction project, Maret has been forthcoming and proactive with neighbors in terms of communication and mitigating measures. During construction times, Maret has been respectful to its neighbors and honored agreed upon conditions and timing.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20643  
EXHIBIT NO.174

Maret has demonstrated its commitment to neighbors well beyond zoning processes and required conditions. For example:

- The school sends out neighborhood communications regularly, provides contact information for school leadership and security, and maintains a [Neighborhood Connections](#) section on its website.
- The school is respectful of its neighbors and is highly responsive to concerns raised.
- Maret has detailed traffic and parking guidelines for its families, students, and visitors and communicates these guidelines regularly to minimize impact in the neighborhood.
- As neighbors, we can state that Maret students are well-behaved and respectful. The school is aware and attuned to their actions in the neighborhood and responds quickly to any infractions.
- The Maret grounds are well maintained with attractive landscaping surrounding its campus.
- Maret has been welcoming to its neighbors who enjoy the community feel of its campus in the middle of our homes, whether we are attending open community events or performances or walking the grounds with friends and family.

We know that Maret will extend these same principles as a good neighbor in the Chevy Chase DC area and we see considerable benefits to the ECC neighborhood with the Maret proposed fields:

- The Maret project promotes and preserves open space versus a more impactful building development on the ECC site.
- Maret will maintain many heritage trees and install extensive landscaping and healthy new trees which will be attractive, abundant, and well cared for.
- The site will be secure, safe, and well monitored.
- Schools in residential areas are subject to regulations and conditions to limit adverse impact to neighboring properties and the neighborhood as a whole. In this respect, Maret has taken the appropriate steps to work with the adjacent neighbors, neighborhood, government agencies, and the ANC to develop a thoughtful and responsive plan.
- We are confident that Maret will honor any conditions imposed and will go beyond these measures to always be a respectful and responsive neighbor in the ECC neighborhood as it has done in ours.

We urge the BZA to approve Maret's plans to develop this site into a vital facility that will be used by Maret, the neighborhood, and other young DC athletes. This plan is essential for the ECC and will strengthen – not diminish – the surrounding neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Spyros and Irene Xenakis

cc:

1. Randy Speck, Chair ANC 3/4G, [Randy.Speck@anc.dc.gov](mailto:Randy.Speck@anc.dc.gov)
2. John Higgins, Commissioner ANC 3/4G, [3G02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3G02@anc.dc.gov)