

5516 Broad Branch Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20015

February 21, 2021

Mr. Frederick L. Hill
Chairman, Board of Zoning Adjustment
Via email: bzasubmissions@dc.gov

Re: **BZA Application No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project**

Dear Mr. Hill,

I write as a 20-year resident of the Chevy Chase DC neighborhood to convey my enthusiastic support for the proposed plans to locate a sport field on the site of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC). I have had three children attend the Maret school for high school (they attended Lafayette and Deal for Elementary and Middle School), but the youngest will be graduated by the time the field is completed, so we will not, as a Maret family, benefit directly from the project. Thus, while I appreciate the benefits to Maret, my support of the project stems primarily from the value I see it bringing to ECC and the neighborhood.

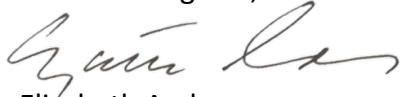
I have reviewed the plans and disclosures about them, and I consider them well-conceived, balancing carefully the needs of the users of the sport field with those of the neighborhood, while substantially mitigating potential externalities. Familiar as I am with the thoughtfulness and professionalism of the Maret administration, I am confident that the school will be exceptional stewards of this property and great neighbors to all of us. We can see that already, in the way that Maret has painstakingly responded to neighborhood concerns and taken steps to modify plans to address them. When compared to any other use of the property, this plan promises the greatest benefit to our community, developing the property in a way that is consistent with and reinforces the family-oriented nature of our neighborhood.

The availability of an additional sport field will be a great boon to families in the area. Like most of our neighbors, I have spent a good portion of the past two decades driving my children to the far reaches of DC in order for them to play in school and intramural sports leagues. As you know, sporting fields are virtually non-existent at Lafayette and woefully inadequate at Deal, as they are in many other parts of the city. I applaud Maret for its commitment to sharing the proposed field with the public to meet this need. How wonderful for future families in our neighborhood to have within walking or biking distance another field where their children's games might be played. I am reassured by the commitments that this use will be kept in reasonable bounds (and without lights or loud speakers) so as not to be inappropriately disruptive to the neighborhood.

I am also very appreciative of the fact that the proposed plan will enable the ECC to reopen its doors and continue the valuable programming it provides to special needs kids.

For all of the foregoing reasons, I am a strong supporter of the proposed plan and urge its approval. Thank you for considering my views and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

With best regards,



Elizabeth Andersen

Cc: ANC 3/4G Chair Randy Speck
ANC 3/4G Commissioner John Higgins