

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Lisa McLish <lisa.mclish22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 11:35 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Cc: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)
Subject: App No. 20643: Maret School Athletic Fields Project

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I write in support of the Maret School's athletic fields project at the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC). I have been a resident of the neighborhood for 28 years and live just a little over a block from the ECC at 3210 Patterson Street. My three children attended both Lafayette Elementary and the Maret School and my third child graduated from Maret in 2021 (so we will not directly benefit from the project). Maret's development of this property seems thoughtful and designed to benefit both the school and the surrounding community. Maret has taken the neighborhood's comments into account and will improve the site. In all the years we have been affiliated with the school Maret has worked to be a good neighbor and give back to both the surrounding neighborhood and the city. I have no doubt that this will continue.

The field is currently completely empty and has never been available to the general neighborhood. In all the years we have lived in the neighborhood I have rarely, if ever, seen anybody using the property (even when the school was fully operational). In the meantime, the city has a dearth of suitable playing fields and my kids and their friends were forced to play miles away from their neighborhoods and in Maryland and Virginia. While I understand the immediate neighbors' apprehension, it is not entirely fair to have the grounds lie dormant for the benefit of a few. As someone who has lived a block from Lafayette Elementary, park and tennis courts for 28 years, I have never viewed the sounds, traffic and use of the park as a detriment - it has been a joy. We are also very lucky to have Rock Creek Park right down the street.

I hope the BZA approves the project.

Sincerely,

Lisa McLish