

**Responses submitted to ANC 3/4G Regarding
DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) Case #20643
EEC Field and Maret School BZA Application**

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT
(A second file of letters of opposition is also on the ANC3G website)**

<As of February 4, 2022>

OF NOTE: The following have been received by ANC 3/4G. Note that the BZA is also in receipt of a number of letters in this case. Responses here are shown by date followed by message. Transposition to a single document format may have altered paragraphing. There have been no changes in content. Additional responses will be posted.

January 10, 2022

Katie and Patrick Kennelly
6200 Utah Ave NW
Washington, DC 20015

John Higgins, ANC 3G02, Randy Speck, Chair ANC 3/4G, Members of ANC 3/4G

Dear Commissioner Higgins, Chair Speck, and distinguished members of the ANC 3/4G.

We write today to urge you to strongly support the proposed partnership between The Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret School. This partnership will help serve children from across this city by providing vital educational and recreational opportunities, will help preserve important green space in our ANC district, will allow a community institution, The ECC, to open its doors to students once again, and will make our community stronger, more inclusive and more family-friendly.

For the past twenty-two years, our family has lived at 6200 Utah Ave, just down the street from the proposed new field site. When the ECC shut its doors to students, it was a loss for both the larger community and our neighborhood. This new partnership will save the ECC, allowing students in need from across the region to receive services and counseling again on campus and preserving the beautiful green space that so many of us have enjoyed throughout the years.

This partnership will also create another precious commodity for our city, more fields for youth sports. Our four children, who range from elementary to college age have played field sports since they were toddlers. One thing extremely clear is the lack of fields across DC, let alone our own neighborhood.

Supporting the Maret/ECC partnership will help alleviate this problem and keep the ever dwindling green space in our city. We hope that the ANC will advocate and encourage more usage of the proposed football/baseball/soccer field for local schools and youth sports groups. There are many families like ours who live close to the ECC who support this partnership. We know loud voices sometimes drown out the voices of others. There have been assertions about traffic, about Maret and the ECC's plans, and claims about potential field usage that simply do not equate with the facts. This proposal is not creating another Carter Baron or a super sports complex where scores of people will be flooding the neighborhood. It is creating a new youth

sports field for a city that desperately needs more green spaces and helping our neighborhood preserve a beautiful open space. After carefully reviewing Maret's plans and taking part in their community input sessions, we think that they have listened to the concerns of the neighborhood and have presented a balanced plan that will meet everyone's concerns.

Lastly, we are so glad the ECC decided to team up with Maret and keep the property centered and focused on education and recreation for children. It is the best outcome we could have hoped for and we need your help to ensure this partnership is approved, supported, and endorsed by the City.

Please know that as property owners close to ECC, we support the ECC/Maret partnership. It will strengthen our community, help our property values and make our neighborhood healthier, stronger, and more diverse for years to come.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions about why we support the partnership and thank you for your consideration. We very much appreciate your dedicated efforts and leadership on behalf of the residents of this ANC District.

Sincerely,

Katie and Patrick Kennelly
6200 Utah Ave NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-285-7849
katiekennelly@yahoo.com

CC: The Honorable Janeese Lewis George, Commissioner for Ward 4

January 10, 2022

paul.j.laporte@gmail.com

To: Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)

I am writing in support of Maret's proposed use of ECC land for athletic fields. I understand the objections, but believe the positives outweigh the concerns.

Regards,

Paul Laporte
6609 31st PI NW
Barnaby Woods

January 10, 2022

From: Sharon Lowe

Randy/John:

Apologies for the late arriving note, but I wanted to voice my support for Maret at ECC. My family has been in Ward 3 for nearly 30 years, and appreciate the hard work of the ANC. I miss

Chris as a strong advocate for us, but also know you both work hard on behalf of all Ward 3 residents. And by all, I mean all - not just the noisy few.

I am also a former Maret parent. Both my boys went through High School at Maret, the youngest graduating this past year. Neither were big sports kids, but they played. Maret is a very small school that really really encourages participation in sports for what it teaches. It is part of the fabric of Maret that you at least try to play some sports and you do so within the confines of the limited playing space we have. It is part of being an urban school. We live in a city.

I just want to make a few key points:

When Maret says they will be a good neighbor, they mean it. From traffic flow, to parking, to use of facilities, the school leadership constantly reinforces the rules and demands parents abide by them. I have seen the Maret baseball team tossed off their own field at Jeleff because their time was up.

There is a massive dearth of playing fields in Ward 3. Every bit will help. As a Ward 3 parent I logged significant miles taking my kids elsewhere to play.

Let's not forget about ECC. Those in opposition seem to be forgetting the vital role ECC has played in the community.

What is the Plan B here? Leaving aside the nonsense that some folks believe that proximity gives them authority, it appears all they are focused on is "not Maret", not realizing that something will happen to that site. So this will continue...unless of course DC chooses to put housing there in which case they will have no vote at all.

Bottom line, Maret has bent over backwards to try to address the neighborhood concerns, ECC needs help, Ward 3 needs more fields.

Thank you for listening.

Sharon Lowe
3903 Jocelyn St NW
(202) 257-9196

January 10, 2022

From: Christie Phillips

To: Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC), a nonprofit educational institution, and our partnership with the Maret School. I have worked with The Episcopal Center for Children in the past as a consultant and currently am on the faculty at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. During that time, it was clear that the staff and workers at ECC were totally committed to the students and would do whatever they could to support those students and work with their families to ensure the students success.

EEC provided a unique supportive, therapeutic program for children with special education and emotional needs for more than 125 years. In operation since the 1950's, EEC has educated and supported thousands of students and their families with dedicated and exceptional teachers and staff. When EEC stopped its education and therapeutic program in June 2019 due to financial constraints, many students and their families were forced to find alternative educational options.

This past year, a partnership with the Maret School was created that would build an athletic field on land that ECC owns behind its buildings, and to lease our smallest building. The field will be in use after school hours, and on the weekends.

This past year, a partnership with the Maret School was created that would build an athletic field on land that ECC owns behind its buildings, and to lease our smallest building. The field will be in use after school hours, and on the weekends some. There will be no lighting for night games and no public address system. The majority of the time - two-thirds of the daylight hours - the field will be unoccupied. EEC students will also be able to use the athletic fields during the school day. With a 50-year lease with another school, this partnership provides a funding stream to assist ECC and is with a like-minded entity, a school for children.

The partnership with the Maret School inspired EEC to plan to reopen in the fall of 2022. is an exciting opportunity for students from the District and neighboring jurisdictions to find special education, therapeutic services, and behavior support. Currently, many students requiring these services are riding the bus for two hours each way to find programs in Maryland and Virginia because only one comparable program still exists in the District.

ECC has served a student population that is often forgotten, voiceless and without resources. In fact, in past years, 91% of the student body qualified for free lunch under the Federal government guidelines. The majority of the students who had attended ECC were from Washington, D.C., specifically wards 6,7, and 8. Eighty-four percent of the students came from D.C public schools and public charter schools. The remaining sixteen percent traveled
ECC has served a student population that is often forgotten, voiceless and without resources. In fact, in past years, 91% of the student body qualified for free lunch under the Federal government guidelines. The majority of the students who had attended ECC were from Washington, D.C., specifically wards 6,7, and 8. Eighty-four percent of the students came from D.C public schools and public charter schools. The remaining sixteen percent traveled from nearby Virginia and Maryland school districts.

The partnership between ECC and Maret School meets many educational and community needs for residents of the District:

- ECC is a DC passed nonprofit school program serving students with individual education plans that cannot be met by their local neighborhood school
- There is only one other therapeutic program in the entire D.C jurisdiction serving students with an emotional disability.
- ECC students experienced emotional disturbances, ADD/ADH, mood disorders, oppositional defiance, speech-language impairments, and learning disabilities. In addition to intensive therapy and supporting educational services, students received individual psychological and psychiatric service.

- All ECC students had individualized education programs (EPs) focused on the whole child. Each student could work through past trauma, learn coping skills and, ultimately, return to the public school setting if possible
- All students at ECC had an individualized education program (EP).
- ECC provides comprehensive Special Education and therapeutic services in one nonprofit facility, while also helping families support their child's education and development. Each parent received a phone call every day to review the progress of the day and provide suggestions on how to support the child at home that evening.

The proposed partnership with Maret School will allow ECC to continue its long-standing mission to serve children coping with special needs and their families. A partnership with Maret joins two school institutions serving children in the community. The 50 year lease agreement allows ECC to leverage the property resources that it has to reopen its program for children while also preserving the open space and committing the space to children and education. Additionally, the athletic fields would also be open for use by the neighborhood during designated times. As a consideration to the neighborhood, no night lights and no public address system will be installed. Usage will be limited to after school hours and weekend daylight hours. Field construction will also address water drainage issues. Netting and landscaping will minimize impact on the surrounding community.

Were ECC to sell the land, it would possibly be for single family or townhouse development. It is not realistic for the land to remain undeveloped or vacant.

This is a partnership that uses available resources to meet the varying needs of multiple school and community resources. It presents a win-win solution to meeting the needs of children within Washington, D.C., particularly some of those most at risk for being marginalized and forgotten.

Sincerely,

Christie Phillips
Adjunct Faculty
Marymount University
Administrator
American Red Cross Retiree Association

January 8, 2022

Lorie Jackson <loriedjacks@gmail.com>

Dear ANC 3/4G Chairman Speck

I am a Co-Block Captain of the 5300 Block of 29th Street NW with a strong interest in sound planning decisions that serve the interests of our broader community. I understand that the ANC is scheduled to address Maret School's proposal to use the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) fields during the ANC 3/4G meeting on Monday Jan 10th. In advance of that session, I wanted to convey my support for Maret's proposal. In my view, it provides the best of the available options for the use of the ECC fields, making it possible for the ECC to resume its much needed special education services to children and families, and put the stewardship of the fields in the hands of Maret, which has an excellent reputation and a record of demonstrating respect for its stakeholders.

For over 125 year the ECC provided special educational services for needy children and families in the District, but it had to suspend its operations a few years ago due to financial constraints. Immediately following its closure, the ECC was approached by numerous real estate brokers and developers representing housing developments, senior living facilities and other entities, both local and international, to purchase the property. Additionally, the ECC explored leasing its facility to DCPS, but that turned out not to be a viable option. After several months of review and community discussion, Maret School offered its proposal, which provides for valuable field use for its students and District children, allows the ECC to resume its crucial operations, and also includes a thoughtful plan for effectively addressing community concerns about noise, light and the environment.

For these reasons, I support Maret's proposal, and respectfully urge you and the ANC 3/4G Commissions to advocate for the approval of the project.
Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes for the New Year,

Best regards,

Lorie Jackson
Co-Block Captain of the 5300 Block of 29th Street NW

January 8, 2022

Commissioner Randy Speck ANC 3G03

Dear Commissioner:

I write in support of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) in their effort to remain viable and relevant in our community. Although I have lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years, I understand this project will not directly affect my house or surroundings. Having lived through Ingleside's multiple years of renovations directly across the street, however, I am not without sympathy for those in the immediate surroundings of those changes that are to take place in the agreement with Maret School. Where once stood hundreds of trees now stands a multiple-storied building with rows of lighted windows that shine in my own every night.

When the ECC ceased operations as a therapeutic school for children with emotional challenges in June 2019, I had been an employee there for 50 years. Hired in 1969 as a child care worker, I then worked there as a social worker until 2019. I, too, have wrestled with concerns about how to keep the ECC relevant in the community, and have had mixed feelings about the use of the property. In particular, I mourn the loss of the trees, the expansive lower field, and the pool. I realize, however, that this alternative may be the best option for keeping the ECC open and offering these specialized services to Washington, DC and surrounding areas.

I have enjoyed a long, wonderful relationship with the ECC, from the founder, Elsa Miller, to long-time Executive Director Alan Korz, to its current CEO Stefanie Nash, who I have known personally and professionally for many years. I can say, without reservation, that Ms Nash will carry on the mission envisioned by Ms Miller, and the rich legacy of service, treatment and advocacy for emotionally troubled children left by Mr Korz. I am very aware of efforts made by all of them to maintain a positive relationship with neighbors, surrounding schools, and within the community. Ms Nash will carry on the legacy of the ECC by continuing to be a thoughtful, good neighbor and an advocate for the community.

I understand there will be much to navigate for this plan to work to the benefit of most involved. This alternative appears to be the best to allow options for neighbors to access the facility and for the ECC to continue its long, rich history of serving the needs of children and their families. Although the neighborhood will continue to have to deal with many issues, I am confident that Ms Nash will strive to best continue to create connections with children and families.

I strongly support this partnership in an effort to keep the ECC open to once again serve the ever-increasing educational needs of our children with emotional and academic challenges. I look forward to the continuing discussions in your effort to come to an equitable solution.

This letter was not solicited by the ECC or Maret.

Sincerely,

John Pleasant
3043 Military Rd NW
Washington, DC 20015
jpleasant3@aol.com
202-966-4784

January 7, 2022

Dear ANC 3/4G Chairman Speck and Commissioner Higgins,

My name is Lionel Brown and I am Co-Block Captain of the 5300 Block of 29th Street NW. My wife, Rhoda Weeks-Brown, and I are also parents of two Maret high schoolers, who are unlikely to directly benefit from the proposed fields when completed.

We are submitting this statement of support of Maret's proposed fields on the ECC grounds given the school's well thought out plan that provides responsible use for not only its students and District children, but also empathetically addresses neighbors understandable concerns about noise, lighting and the environment. Throughout Maret's 110 years history in the District, the School has made being a great neighbor part of its ethos. Moreover, Maret has demonstrated strong commitment to the wider District community by generously opening its doors to needed students and allowing use of its facilities by a myriad of organizations for educational, sports and community purposes.

We believe Maret's long and storied roots in the District, stellar reputation for integrity and the ECC's desire to reopen its critical operations to special needs students make this partnership the best and most viable option for use of the space. The proposal is undoubtedly in the long term interest of our community and we have no doubt that Maret will keep its commitments. Therefore, we unreservedly support Maret's proposal. Moreover, we respectfully urge you and the ANC 3/4G commissioners to advocate for approval of the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lionel Brown & Rhoda Weeks-Brown
5314 29th Street NW

January 6, 2022, at 8:40 AM

I am writing to log my strong support of the potential Maret lease of ECC at 5901 Utah Avenue. The Episcopal Center for Children has a long and rich history serving children in our area and the potential partnership with Maret would be a win-win-win.

As I understand it, this relationship would (1) help the ECC get back to its important work serving kids (2) preserve a beautiful open space for the city and neighborhood and (3) create a multi outdoor field space that would benefit Maret but also the larger community.

We have 3 children and live at 33rd and Oliver St. NW. I strongly support the project and encourage you to give it your full consideration.

Many thanks.

Josh Lahey
3225 Oliver St NW, Washington, DC 20015

January 6, 2022

Mike Di Marco <mdimarco@horizonsgreaterwashington.org>

To: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)

Dear ANC Commissioners Speck and Higgins:

I write to you today as both a DC resident as well as the Executive Director of Horizons Greater Washington in support of the proposed partnership between Maret and the ECC to ensure greater field and recreation space for our community. For context, Horizons is a primarily summer academic enrichment program for 400 K-8 students in the DC area. We have hosted a site at Maret since 2000. At Horizons, we work to not only stop the summer slide for underserved students in DC, but to accelerate academic achievement during the critical summer months. On average, Horizons students gain 1-3 months in math and reading skills at the conclusion of each summer with Horizons. We are proud to serve primarily students who attend Title I public and charter schools.

None of our incredible results or 20+ years of programming would be possible without Maret's commitment to Horizons. This commitment to community and Horizons' mission starts at the top with Head of School Marjo Talbott. It was Marjo's commitment to our mission and building a better, more equitable DC that brought Horizons to the DC area over 20 years ago. Since that time, Marjo has served as a steady presence on our Horizons Board of Directors and helped the program expand from serving 15 students at Maret in 2000 to serving over 400 students at three schools in Summer 2022. It is Marjo's vision, commitment, and advocacy with her fellow school leaders that has made our expansion of programming possible.

I can personally attest to the way that Maret wholeheartedly opens their doors to serve our Horizons students. At no cost, Maret provides program space, busing, staff resources, materials, supplies, and yes, field space to Horizons to ensure that our Horizons students can have a transformative and life changing experience every year for nine years. As part of the partnership, Maret gives Horizons students full access to their campus and resources, including critical outdoor space. I have seen firsthand how squeezed the school is to manage their limited field space (including lack of access to full sized fields). A partnership with the ECC will give Maret (and Horizons' students) access to field space that is not already available.

As a community partner, I have seen the entire Maret community live out their mission and values— particularly in supporting their students' success and connecting to their communities. In my role, I can attest that Maret is a conscientious, welcoming, willing partner always mindful of their responsibility to serve the greater good. I am grateful for Maret's partnership with Horizons and am fully confident that the proposed partnership with the ECC will benefit the larger community.

Sincerely,

Mike Di Marco— Executive Director Horizons Greater Washington
Office Phone: 202-939-8885
Cell Phone: 201-788-7216
www.horizonsgreaterwashington.org

January 6, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

As owners and residents of the home at 6214 29th Street, NW, we write in strong support of the proposed partnership between the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret School. As neighbors who live very close to ECC, the proposal is ideal to meet the needs of our local community and the families who live here.

Access to open space and exercise are critical for child development and mental and physical health. As a family with a young child, we have tried to use the ECC fields during the pandemic to give our son access to a nearby open field but were prevented by a policeman from throwing a frisbee on the vacant, unoccupied field. The proposed ECC-Maret partnership would allow us as local residents to use a much-improved and closeby open space and would be a major benefit to our family's physical and mental health during a challenging time. At the same time, it would not increase residential density or cause significant disruptions or quality of life concerns in this quiet residential neighborhood.

As a 7th grade student at Maret, our son currently has limited access to space on school fields where he can exercise and participate in outdoor team sports. He and many other District children would benefit greatly if this partnership goes forward to allow Maret students, community members, and a limited number of youth sports organizations to play sports on quality playing fields that are currently scarce in this area. In these challenging times in particular, physically distanced outdoor play time is a critical local resource for our neighborhood's kids and families.

The proposal as described is both very reasonable and in the best interests of this neighborhood as well as the ECC and Maret communities. Please contact us at Peter_Zamora@hotmail.com and MarcelaGUrrutia@hotmail.com if we can provide additional information regarding our strong support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Peter and Marcela Zamora
6214 29th St., NW
Washington, DC 20015

January 5, 2022

Higgins, John (SMD 3G02) Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); jlewisgeorge@dccouncil.us

Dear Commissioner Higgins:

As a resident of Ward Four and ANC 3/4G-02, I urge you to approve Maret School's leasing of the Episcopal Children Center's unused field. Why? This matter boils down to this:

Does the ECC/Maret proposal have enough value for the DC community as a whole, now and in the future, to outweigh the current apprehensions of the households now living nearby on Nebraska Avenue or adjoining the field?

Please consider:

- Regarding the noise and traffic after 3 pm in midweek afternoons and on Saturdays, those neighbors over time will regard the redone ECC field as no more bothersome than the people who live around Lafayette School feel about the baseball diamond, playgrounds, and tennis courts there.
- The unused field would have no better use than allowing the ECC to restart and thus serve generations of diverse DC children with emotional challenges and their families, as well as Maret student athletes and authorized youth groups.
- If this plan is rejected, however, that area will: remain unused, forcing the ECC to stay closed, or face unknown, possibly uncontrollable, changes in the near future that cause months of noise and disruption from construction of houses or an institution.

On balance, I believe the overall benefits to the ECC, Maret, and diverse DC youth groups – now and into the future -- overcome the current neighbors' concerns.

As the parent of two Maret graduates (and our daughter is current chair of the alumni board), I know Maret has already accommodated several neighbors' requests, and I am sure it will be open to other reasonable concerns they may raise.

Thanks for your attention,

Michael Lund, resident in Ward Four, ANC 3/4G-02
6255 29th Street, N.W.

January 4, 2022

Washington, DC 20015

202-596-0702

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for the planned development of the empty 5 acres owned by the Episcopal Center for Children and leased to Maret School for use as their athletic fields. A few members of the neighborhood have been very vocal in their opposition and a recent article in the Washington Post focused on their concerns. But ECC's voice and the children it serves have had very little attention in this discussion. As a member of the Board of Directors for ECC for over 30 years, I would like to explain why we feel it necessary to develop a portion of our property so we can continue to serve our mission assisting children coping with special needs.

For over 100 years ECC's mission has been to create an educational and therapeutic environment for young children with severe emotional disabilities. These are children who, for a variety of reasons, require special education services that are simply not available in their neighborhood public schools.

There is a tremendous need for this treatment and it is urgently needed due to the permanent closures of several similar independent, nonpublic schools in the District, due to financial hardship. Unlike most traditional independent schools, we are unable to set our tuition fees to cover our expenses. We must accept what the city's budget allows, which never fully covers the expenses. We provide almost a 1:1 ratio of students to staff while offering comprehensive and accredited academic instruction and therapeutic services for children with very complex needs. ECC has survived over the years by subsidizing our annual budget with funds from donations and our endowment fund, which was created by generous donors over many years. However, in the spring of 2019 the Board made the difficult decision to pause operations until we could figure out a way to make the institution's finances self-sustaining, because we were quickly running out of money.

When word got out that we had paused operations we were approached with many offers to buy or lease our property. Some of these development plans called for high density townhouses, expensive individual residences, and 4 story buildings for independent senior living quarters. We even had an inquiry from a developer headquartered in London, England. All of these plans would have been far more disruptive to the neighborhood than a sports field.

When the Maret School approached us with a plan to convert our unutilized acreage to playing fields our Board thought this was an excellent solution for all parties. ECC would have a reliable stream of income to support our operations and allow us to reopen, and the Maret School would have badly needed playing fields for their students. The land would remain open space available to the neighborhood, subject to Maret School's guidelines and also available to the students attending the ECC.

We understand many of the neighbors' concerns about the details of the plan, such as location of the scoreboard, bus parking on Nebraska Ave, noise levels, weekend usage and water run-off, but we feel that the Maret School has been sensitive to these issues and has worked in good faith to mitigate problems wherever possible. ECC also wrote into the lease provisions that prohibit the installation of lights on the playing fields so that no events can take place after sundown.

Our commitment remains to the children we serve and their families. Upon hearing of the ECC-Maret partnership, a parent of a former ECC student wrote to us, "Thank God!" That is the relief these families feel knowing that our school could reopen, thanks to this partnership. Our former staff are excited too - as many are commuting long hours outside the District to jobs in other programs.

It would be irresponsible for us to not use every resource we have, to reopen to serve these children. Many of the pupils who might attend our school, are currently being bused outside the District to programs in Maryland and Virginia – which poses a burden on their families and impacts their treatment. These children need a special education program that can meet their needs in the District, one that is accredited and can meet their needs with care and support.

Two things are certain. ECC will not be deterred from our long-standing mission of helping special needs children. Change will come to our open land in one form or another. We cannot afford to have it remain as is.

I sincerely hope you and your fellow Commissioners will approve the ECC-Maret plan on January 10 for the greater good of all concerned.

Most Sincerely,

William P. Simons III
Chairman of the Board
Episcopal Center For Children

January 4, 2022

Dear Officers and commissioners of ANC3G and fellow residents of the District of Columbia,

Please allow me to add my voice to the many who feel we must allow an invaluable, but not now functioning, community resource to be revitalized. I refer to the Episcopal Center for Children which has been lying fallow since lack of funding forced it to close in 2019. Until the 2019 closure, ECC was providing special education, therapeutic services, and behavioral support for children of the Washington metropolitan area. The services provided were broader and more comprehensive than any available in the public school system or city-wide social network.

ECC possibly could have resolved its financial issues by selling unused land it now owns to private interests for real estate development. I understand that is still a last resort alternative. Instead, ECC saw a better solution in leasing the land to Maret School for use as its school athletic field. The land would then be available for ECC children recreational use as well as for members of the community at large. ECC would then be provided with the funding necessary to function once again.

My family has been neighbors of ECC since we became property owners in Barnaby Woods in the 1960's and we have always thought of the functioning ECC as a valuable neighbor and city-wide resource. We are aware that the nearby St. John's College High School and its athletic fields has coexisted peacefully with its neighbors for many decades. Members of the ECC board and administrative staff give every assurance they will always keep the needs and peaceful lives of the surrounding residents of the athletic fields in mind.

Please move to allow this reopening to take place.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Watson
6676 32nd place, NW
Washington, DC 20015

January 3, 2022

Dear Commissioners Speck and Higgins:

We are writing in support of the proposed lease of land by the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) to the Maret School. We know that you will be giving thoughtful consideration to the proposed partnership and wanted to share our perspective as long-time members of the community. The agreement would drive two positive outcomes – ECC would be able to reopen, after being forced to shut down for financial reasons, and Maret would have fields that it could use for its diverse students to be active outdoors as well as for the broader community. Pretty good for a lease of five acres.

Through its lease of the Jelleff Recreation Center, Maret has proven itself as a responsible, inclusive, and thoughtful community partner, providing opportunities for young people throughout the city to use those facilities. Maret has acted as an intentional steward for both their own students and more broadly for other young people. Building on its track record, we are confident that Maret would seek out opportunities to provide the ECC fields to other youth organizations consistent with the concerns and needs of the neighboring community. In this case, Maret is simply trying to provide fields, so its high school students have a place to play soccer, lacrosse, football and baseball. Nearby schools Wilson and St. John's, for example, have such fields. Maret does not. The effects on neighbors of converting the current space to a playing field seem limited and could bring more vitality and new possibility to the neighborhood. The laughter, cheers and sounds of play offer opportunities to bring new energy.

On the more practical side, Maret does not plan to install either lights or an amplified sound system. So, games and practices will not occur at night nor cause major traffic issues or inconvenience to the neighborhood. While there may be some cheers here and there, the reality is that most high school sports games do not draw huge crowds. And who knows, it is possible that young people playing sports there would infuse the neighborhood with some fresh intergenerational energy and opportunities for connections. We hope the neighbors, ECC and Maret can embrace an open mind and find an outcome that is satisfactory to all. The potential benefits seem substantial. Thank you for your consideration of our views and your service to the community.

Regards,

Jim Whitney and Anne Mosle
3800 Military Road, NW
Washington, DC 20015
Ph 202-841-726

January 2, 2022

5516 Broad Branch Rd., NW Washington, DC 20015

January 2, 2022

Ms. Connie K.N. Chang 5440 Nevada Ave., NW Washington, DC 20015

Dear Commissioner Chang,

I write as a neighbor and ANC constituent 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 wellconceived, 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 you and your colleagues to support it. I will be attending the upcoming ANC meeting at which the plan will be discussed and hope to hear that the way is clear for the plan to proceed.

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: Commissioner Randy Speck Commissioner John Higgins

January 2, 2022

Jenny Backus and Ed Pagano 5841 Nebraska Ave NW Washington DC 20015

John Higgins, ANC 3G02 Randy Speck, Chair ANC 3/4G Members of ANC 3/4G

Dear Commissioner Higgins, Chair Speck, and distinguished members of the ANC 3/4G, We write today to urge you to strongly support the proposed partnership between The Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret School. This partnership will help serve children from across this city by providing vital educational and recreational opportunities, will help preserve important green space in our ANC district, will allow a community institution, The ECC, to open its doors to students once again, and will make our community stronger, more inclusive and more family-friendly. For the past twenty-one years, our family has lived at 5841 Nebraska Ave, directly across from the proposed new field site.

We have loved listening to the students who attended the ECC play outside on the fields, enjoyed meeting the faculty and staff as they parked their cars along Nebraska Ave, and have proudly worked to create opportunities for the neighborhood to support the students and the mission of the ECC over the past ten years, whether it was working to bring the Lafayette Spring Fair to the grounds of the ECC or organizing book and coat drives for ECC students. When the ECC shut its doors to students, it was a loss for both the larger community and our neighborhood. This new partnership will save the ECC, allowing students in need from across the region to receive services and counseling again on campus and preserving the beautiful green space that so many of us have enjoyed throughout the years.

This partnership will also create another precious commodity for our city, more fields for youth sports. Our son Jack, who attended Lafayette, Deal and is now a sophomore at Maret, played soccer, baseball, tag football and frisbee when he was younger, and we witnessed firsthand the appalling lack of field space for kids across DC in almost every Ward. As a sophomore, Jack will probably not get to use this new ECC field very much as a Maret student, but we are excited that the younger children of this city from every school will now have more options when it comes to playing sports. We hope that the ANC will advocate and encourage more usage of the proposed football/baseball/soccer field for local schools and youth sports groups. We also want to make sure that you all know that there are many families like ours who live close to the ECC who support this partnership. We know loud voices sometimes drown out the voices of others. There have been assertions about traffic, about Maret and the ECC's plans, and claims about potential field usage that simply do not equate with the facts. This proposal is not creating another Carter Baron or a super sports complex where scores of people will be flooding the neighborhood. It is creating a new youth sports field for a city that desperately needs more green spaces and helping our neighborhood preserve a beautiful open space. After carefully reviewing Maret's plans and taking part in their community input sessions, we think that they have listened to the concerns of the neighborhood and have presented a balanced plan that will meet everyone's concerns.

Lastly, as much as we all in this neighborhood feel like we own this space, this is private property and it is totally appropriate and fitting that these two educational institutions have created this partnership. When the ECC closed its doors, we feared for the worst. Visions of condos, high-rises, and McMansions destroying the view out of our front window danced in our heads. We are so glad the ECC decided to team up with Maret and keep the property centered and focused on education and recreation for children. It is the best outcome we could have hoped for and we need your help to ensure this partnership is approved, supported, and

endorsed by the City. As some of the property owners most directly impacted by this proposed partnership and active members of this ANC, we want you to know we support it strongly, we think it will strengthen our community, help our property values and make our neighborhood healthier, stronger, and more diverse for years to come. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions about why we support the partnership and thank you for your consideration. We very much appreciate your dedicated efforts and leadership on behalf of the residents of this ANC District.

Sincerely,

Jenny Backus and Ed Pagano
5841 Nebraska Ave NW Washington DC, 20015
202-262-9963, 240-401-1515
backusconsulting@gmail.com,
edpags04@yahoo.com

CC: The Honorable Janeese Lewis George, Commissioner for Ward

January 1, 2022

Dear Randy,

Happy New Year!

As a long-time resident in the ANC 3/4G I am writing to express my strong support of Maret's Proposed Fields at the ECC property.

This project will benefit Maret School AND the ECC's programs to fulfill their mission. Developing quality fields for DC youth athletic organizations is important for our city. There is insufficient accessible field space for many local organizations. I strongly encourage the ANC and the BZA to approve this project AND encourage reasonable use of the fields by other DC youth groups.

I am the parent of two Maret graduates. Maret School partners well with the District and other organizations to support the needs of DC youth. Over 20 years ago, Maret established the local DC Horizons program. Maret remains a faithful partner expanding Horizons' impact in DC and Maryland. Since DC Horizons' founding, Maret has provided its campus for six weeks every summer, year-round administrative office space, and other services - all free of charge - helping Horizons fulfill its mission: a tuition-free academic and enrichment program serving over 350 students from under-resourced communities in Washington, DC and Maryland.

Maret has consistently worked closely and diligently with adjacent neighbors when developing projects. The School will continue to collaboratively address locals' concerns about ECC property. Please know Maret is a trustworthy partner that fulfills obligations. Maret enjoys the reputation as a good neighbor on 3000 Cathedral Avenue, NW - listening to, working with, and valuing neighbors and the community. Maret would be an excellent neighbor and steward for the ECC property.

Thank you for all you do for our community. Maret's Proposed Fields at the ECC property is an excellent plan with a proven and reliable DC partner.

Endorse this important project. Make positive impact on several non-profit entities and our city's student athletes.

Sara Imershein MD
3912 Harrison St NW (since 1985)
202-365-5300

December 31, 2021

To: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)
I fully support the proposed partnership of Maret & ECC Partnership for new/upgraded athletic fields.

I live in Friendship Heights - in the neighborhood of the proposed athletic fields.
I also can assure you that Maret will be a considerate and welcome presence in our neighborhood.

While you will consider several opinions about this proposal I urge you to not to lose sight of why this project is so important:

These are athletic fields for our youth!! What better use of space can you imagine????!!

These athletic fields will be available for special needs children!! If this aspect of the project draws opposition then I have no words to express my dismay at those fighting this project!! The athletic fields will be available to other community groups!! Are we afraid of opening up our neighborhood to others??

I understand that this project has been heavily negotiated between all the parties. It is time to stop fighting this project and move forward!!

AS A NEIGHBOR I FULLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT TO PROVIDE OPEN SPACE FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS FOR OUR YOUTH!!!

I TRUST THAT AS OUR ANC MEMBERS YOU WILL SUPPORT THIS PROJECT!

Sincerely,

Mark Levine
mjlevine55@gmail.com

December 30, 2021

Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)

To Mr. Speck et al,

We are writing to you today to voice our ardent support for the proposed partnership between the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) and Maret School, and to encourage your support for the upcoming field development project.

As lifetime residents of Ward 3 and parents of two current Maret students, we are intimately aware of the benefits this project would provide for both Maret students and the community at large. Maret, in its current location at 3000 Cathedral Ave, does not have adequate field space to execute its athletic program. The ECC fields would allow Maret to meet the needs of its student athletes—a core value of Maret’s mission.

Additionally, Maret’s commitment to sharing its field space with a limited number of youth sports organizations in DC would address the growing need for field space throughout the city. Maret prides itself on being a good neighbor and partner and is certain to balance the need for additional field space while being responsive and respectful of its ECC neighbors. Finally, Maret’s lease of the ECC field space will allow ECC to continue providing much needed resources for the students they serve.

It is our great hope, as residents of Ward 3, that this project will move forward without delay. Serving the needs of Maret students, the ECC, and the community at large seems a worthy use of a space that may otherwise find itself developed into something more obtrusive.

Sincerely,

Brian and Kara Kochan
3713 Ingomar St. NW
Washington, DC 20015

December 29, 2021

To: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02) Benitez, Tamira (Council)
TBenitez@DCCOUNCIL.US

ANC3/4G Chair Speck, ECC Commissioner Higgins and Councilmember Lewis-George:

As former Maret School parents and 42-year residents in ANC 3G03, we write to encourage your support for Maret School’s proposed new student athletic fields on the property of the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC). Completion of this project would have substantial benefits to Maret, ECC and the Greater DC community, including:

For Maret:

- Its high school athletes would finally have regulation-size fields for their baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and football programs.

For ECC:

- The funds generated from Maret’s lease would help ensure ECC’s long-term viability, which would benefit the special needs children that ECC had been serving until it suspended operations in June 2019.

For the Greater DC Community:

- Maret would share the proposed athletic fields with a number of youth sports organizations that do not have access to quality playing fields.

Maret has met with neighborhood residents to address their concerns and, as a result, has committed to forgo the use of field lighting and amplified sound (other than for a shot clock for lacrosse games). In addition, Maret (i) has revised its plan to re-locate certain field elements (including retaining walls, scoreboard, batting cage, and bullpens); (ii) is evaluating ways to mitigate the transportation impact; and (iii) is actively considering more limited use of the fields by DC youth sports groups. Further, Maret plans to use the fields only during the daytime and thus has no need to install the lighting that would be needed for night games.

In view of these various benefits to the community, Maret, and ECC, as well as Maret's responsiveness to neighbors' concerns, we urge you to support Maret's proposal for new student athletic fields on the ECC property.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren and Glen Howard
2746 Jenifer Street NW

December 27, 2021

Judithbailey@verizon.net

To: Higgins, John (SMD 3G02) Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03)

Dear ANC Commissioner John Higgins:

As a resident of our neighborhood for more than four decades, I'm writing to express my strong support for the Episcopal Children's Center's (ECC) plan to lease its playing fields to Maret School for use by Maret and other community groups. The plan will greatly benefit our overall community, and I urge you to vote in favor of it.

The proposal allows ECC to resume its mission on behalf of children with special needs. As you know, ECC had to close down its educational operation in June 2019, due to lack of funds. According to the Washington Post (11/28/2021), ECC lost more than \$1.5 million during that final school year. Since then, ECC has been searching for a way to use its extensive grounds (sell, develop, or lease them) as a way to generate revenue to resume serving these children. The proposal ECC has developed with Maret will provide ECC with those necessary funds.

The proposal would cause only limited disruption to the surrounding neighborhood. ECC's proposal would keep the fields that are located next to ECC's main building as open space, and resume their use much as they had been used in earlier decades when ECC was first an orphanage and then a residential school.

Critically, the land would not be developed for single or multi-family housing or other purposes with extensive, potentially years-long construction. It would remain open space. Maret, to be sure, would use the fields more actively than ECC has in recent years, but Maret's use still would be limited:

- i. Maret proposes only afternoon and Saturday practice and games during the fall and spring – NO night games. --
- ii. There would be NO field lighting and NO amplified sound systems. -----

- iii. Maret proposes to build 50 off-street parking spaces on the site to ease the use of on-street parking by Maret or visiting team parents and thereby minimize the impact on the neighborhood. Maret would bus its teams to games and practice. --
- iv. Maret would renovate the fields in an environmentally sound manner – move heritage trees appropriately, build a (currently not existing) stormwater management system, and use updated, environmentally sound artificial turf.

The proposal provides opportunities for other DC youth groups to use the space. ECC and Maret both hope that the plan, once worked out completely with the neighbors and the various DC governmental bodies, would allow the use of the fields by neighborhood and community groups. As I understand, there is a shortage of space usable for youth sports all over DC. It would be a shame not to open up use of this space by a variety of diverse groups, though in a way that remains sensitive to the interest and concerns of immediate neighbors.

The proposal brings in a school with an established record of working with neighbors. Back in the 1990s, my children attended Maret School, and I was impressed by the way the Head of School, Marjo Talbott, and other staff, reached out and listened to the adjacent neighbors when the school planned renovations to its facility on Cathedral Avenue. I have no doubt that Maret would continue to do that with our Chevy Chase neighbors as it developed its plan and implemented it in the years going forward. I would expect that Maret would be an institutional neighbor as responsive to its residential neighbors as our 29th Street block has found Col. Paul Bricker and the staff at Knollwood to be.

I understand that the neighbors who live right next to the ECC fields would prefer the status quo – they would like to continue to live next to wide open fields that see little use, and no use at all by organized youth groups. But that's just not sustainable. Their ECC neighbor badly needs revenues, and Maret needs athletic fields. Other school and community youth groups also need the open fields that are in short supply in our city. This proposal provides a great opportunity to meet those needs, while still appropriately respecting the interests and needs of the neighbors. I very much hope you too will support the ECC proposal. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Judith Bailey
6255 29th Street NW
Washington, DC 20015
202 251 8411

December 20, 2021

Steven and Alli Yates

(To Commissioner Zeldin)

Dear Michael,

We live down the street from the ECC campus, at the corner of Utah and 31st NW, and we are writing to share our support of leasing the athletic field space to Maret. Although we are a non-Maret family, we have lived in DC for many years and have spoken to many neighbors and friends about the lack of field space in DC.

We hope the ANC and Maret will work together to come up with a plan that addresses neighbor concerns in a fair and balanced way. It would be great to have Maret open up the space to the local community and non-Maret teams. I think it would be a wonderful thing for the community.

Thank you,

Steven and Alli Yates

December 14, 2021

Rachel Zuraw <racheladele@gmail.com>

To: Chang, Connie (SMD 3G05)

Dear Commissioners Chang, Speck, and Higgins,

We write as residents of the Chevy Chase community in support of proposed plans to redevelop the ECC fields. The ECC grounds are a beautiful but under-utilized space in Chevy Chase. At the same time, youth sports have a lack of usable field space. We are excited by the proposal - and by Maret's commitment - to invest in the fields, to provide field space for our active sports children, and to share use on weekends. We see this as a win for the whole community. We have faith in Maret's commitment to share the space based on the long-standing community use of spaces at their existing campus. We have read the ECC proposal, and the planned use seems like it will thoughtfully build the community with little to no disruption.

We would be delighted to see this space be in better service to the community and are pleased that Maret and ECC are working to make that happen.

Sincerely,
Andrew & Rachel Zuraw
5814 Nevada Ave NW (ANC 3G05)

December 13, 2021

Commissioner Higgins,

Thank you and to the rest of the ANC for allowing me the opportunity to speak. My name is Rick Juneja, and I am a proud ANC3G resident, a Maret parent, a Maret trustee, and the parent of a DC Soccer kid. I fully support the partnership that has developed between Maret and the ECC for the proposed athletic field on the ECC site. It's a great example of the types of partnerships we need more of in this city, and in our country, because it's truly a win-win-win: The ECC needs additional financial support in order to continue its own important mission, and Maret needs additional athletic field space in order to continue its own important missions. So, it's a win-win for those two organizations. But why a "win-win-win"? The third constituent in this transaction is the city of Washington and its residents and ECC neighbors.

The city gets badly needed field space without needing to spend taxpayer dollars, and the neighbors and residents get a local field for their children to play on when it's not being used by Maret. Maret has a long track record of being a generous neighbor, whether it's letting children

use its playground on weekends to opening its campus to the Horizons program each summer. In other words, Maret seeks to share its resources with the surrounding communities. Maret's planned use of the ECC field would be no different, and I would encourage any of you with hesitations to keep an open mind about what life could be like once the fields have been built: fewer car trips to other neighborhoods for soccer, baseball and lacrosse games; more foot traffic in the neighborhood, and hearing the daytime sounds of young people enjoying sports. All of these benefits are on top of major infrastructure improvements that Maret has committed to doing, including, for example, building a modern stormwater management system.

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need more field space, it would just be available to all of us. However, we don't live in that perfect world. We live in Washington DC, a beautiful city where more and more parents wish to remain and raise their children, but a city where large swaths of land are owned by foreign governments and our own federal government, and are off-limits to District residents. Our city wasn't originally designed to have so many young children looking for field space, and we must get creative to meet the growing need. I applaud both ECC and Maret leadership for finding a solution that benefits all of us. I believe Maret has been very open to accommodating as many of the neighbor's requests as it can; it has revised its original design many times over, and that's a reflection of how thoughtful and conscientious a partner Maret is today and will be once the fields are ready. I strongly support the development of this property by Maret and the ECC.

Thank you very much.

Rick Junea

December 10, 2021

Gregory L. Poe and Sunita Duggal

(To Commissioner Speck)

Re: Support of Proposed Athletic Fields Partnership Between Maret School and the Episcopal Center for Children

Dear Randy:

We write in support of the proposed partnership between Maret School and the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) regarding athletic fields on the ECC campus. Our house, in which we have lived since December 2007, is one block from the ECC campus. For numerous reasons, we believe that the project is clearly in the interests of the community as well as Maret and ECC. We have been Maret parents since 2005. Our older daughter attended Maret beginning in kindergarten. She graduated in 2018. Our younger daughter is currently a senior at Maret and has attended the school since kindergarten.

Over the past 16 years, we have developed a keen understanding of Maret's unsurpassed commitment to the well-being of its students and the community at large. Our neighborhood should welcome Maret's presence. We have been following the status of the project through Maret's web page (<https://www.maret.org/athletics/proposed-new-fields-at-ecc/>) and community sources (such as the Chevy Chase List Serve). Unfortunately, we have become aware that various canards and inaccurate statements by persons opposing the project have made the rounds. For example, one of the falsehoods that has been propagated is that the project was

developed furtively. The public record contradicts that position. The benefits of the project are palpable. For one thing, Maret's lease payments are critical to allowing ECC to resume its operations and pursue its mission serving special needs children and their families over the long term. Maret is not using the project to generate revenue for itself (contrary to another canard). Maret needs the fields for its student-athletes to advance their development and compete with their peers.

And, true to its history of community engagement, Maret is committed to including other youth sports programs in the use of the athletic fields in an appropriate manner. Maret has made clear that the project will be undertaken in an environmentally sound way. Maret has made clear that it will appropriately address and respect neighborhood concerns regarding noise (for example, there will be no amplified sound system other than a shot clock for lacrosse games) and lighting (there will be no field lighting). Maret has carefully addressed and respected concerns of neighbors and will continue to do so. We are not surprised that some persons living in proximity to the proposed athletic fields are attempting to maintain the status quo to advance their perceived self-interest. But such opposition is, to say the least, short-sighted. The proposed Maret-ECC partnership is in the interests of both institutions as well as the entire community. We respectfully request that the ANC 3/4G support the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 202- 595-4466 or gregory.poe@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to engage on anything relating to the project.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Poe
Sunita R. Duggal
2923 Northampton St NW DC

December 8, 2021

Michelle Cooper

(To Commissioner Higgins)

Hi, apologies if I've missed this. I tried to find a FAQ on this issue and couldn't dig one up. We live down the street on Utah Ave, but not in the immediate blocks of ECC. We do however have two soccer players and one coach in our home, who are often schlepping to different parts of town for practices and games with DC Soccer (formerly Stoddert).

I'd like to advocate for the fields being made available during prime weekend and afternoon hours to a wider swath of kids in our community than just Maret's students - and not just the hours around the edges of the evenings and weekends. Not sure I can attend the evening meetings to make this point of view known.

Often we're at practices at Jelleff, another field that Maret has both improved, and taken a disproportionate amount of use for their exclusive use, at the Palisades rec center (where parking and traffic must be disruptive to those poor neighbors), Carter Barron (which is convenient and reasonably maintained) and at a private school in Bethesda that makes its fields available to Stoddert for rental.

I really wish there had been a way to purchase the open parcel for use for our overcrowded school, but, next best use is for an environmentally friendly/low impact way for people (including children) who live in the area, and sports teams that serve kids who live in the area, to use it, and for it to be made available for wider use.

Thank you,

Michelle Cooper (6515 Utah Ave NW)

December 8, 2021

Tom McLish

(To Commissioner Zeldin)

Hi Michael,

I'm a 20+-year homeowner in 3G04. We lived on 33rd St for 18 years and are now on Patterson St. between 32nd and 33rd. We can see ECC from our top floor window.

I wanted to register my 100% support for the arrangement between Maret and ECC to build a baseball diamond and multi-use field on the currently unused ECC property behind the main building. For years and years I have walked my dog past that property and thought that it is a shame that it is going unused. Space like that is such a rarity in DC and it should be put to use. Of course it will eventually going to be developed in some way, especially when ECC announced a couple of years ago that it was essentially shutting down. So I was thrilled when I heard last year that a plan was in the works and that it involved creating playing fields, rather than a housing development, senior living facility or something along those lines. I was also glad to hear that ECC elected to go with Maret. My three kids went to Maret (all are graduates – we have no affiliation with the school currently) and the one thing I can tell you about that school is that they are all about being exemplary citizens of their community. I doubt that there is any other organization that ECC might have partnered with that would be more focused on doing the right thing with that property and the surrounding neighborhood than Maret. That includes the District – just look at how poorly they maintain the grounds at Lafayette.

I understand why people whose houses abut the property or are across from it on Nebraska have concerns. Anyone would. It is my understanding that Maret is addressing the reasonable concerns, such as a formal 50-year commitment not to add lighting or a sound system. To the extent folks are objecting to the plan in its entirety (I don't know of any who are, except for people quoted in the Post), I believe that is unreasonable. That property is not going to sit unused for much longer and the other alternative uses are almost certainly worse. It is only because ECC has been unable financially to make full use of that space that it has sat unused for all these years. It is not reasonable to buy a house next to a school and then object to it being used for quintessentially school-type activities.

In short, I wholeheartedly support the plan. It will be great for the neighborhood, certainly much better than any plausible alternative. It will allow ECC to get back on its feet. It will create much-needed field space for others, not just Maret. The space will no longer be an empty expanse surrounded by "No Trespassing" signs. The storm water runoff situation will be dramatically improved.

Thanks for reading and for all you are doing as our commissioner. I would be happy to discuss this with you.

Best regards

Tom McLish

December 8, 2021

Chang, Connie (SMD 3G05)

Dear Ms. Chang,

I am writing to share the reasons for my support of the proposal for the Maret School to lease, develop and support recreational space at the Episcopal Children's Center. My husband and I have lived in Ward 3 at 3502 Runnymede Place NW since 1981 and we have raised four children in this neighborhood. All four of our children attended Lafayette Elementary School and I served as Lafayette Home and School President for several years. My children later attended Deal Junior High and Maret School for High School. I am now the grandmother of four children who live in this neighborhood and all of them will attend Lafayette Elementary School.

I am enthusiastically supportive of the proposal because it will enhance the access to needed field space for all of the children in our community and improve the community's quality of life. The Episcopal Home space is not currently being used and is not benefitting the community. There are a shortage of fields both for use by schools and the general community. I have reviewed Maret's site plans and believe they preserve environmental and neighborhood integrity. Maret's planners are aware of and the plans have been developed to mitigate the concerns of adjacent neighbors. I also know that Maret has always been a respectful neighbor in the Cleveland Park community and will be so in our neighborhood. They have indicated and demonstrated their willingness to work with the community to make adjustment to mitigate any real problems that have been identified in their plans.

I believe that not approving this proposal will be a missed opportunity for our community and for the children who live there.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Judith Meltzer
6255 29th Street NW
Washington, DC 20015

December 8, 2021

(To Commissioner Speck and Full Commission)

Subject: Official Comments in support of Maret's proposed athletic field at ECC site

Dear 3G03@anc.dc.gov

I offer strong support for Maret's proposed athletic field at the Episcopal Children's Center (ECC) site in NW DC. Knowing Maret, they will continue to be responsive to community input while being open and transparent about both what they need for use of the site and their strong values of inclusion and support for the broader DC community.

First, leasing the site to Maret provides a means for ECC to continue to meet its mission to educate and support child development and will ensure the site's primary use continues. With this agreement ECC can restart its K-8 school for children with emotional challenges, which was closed at least temporarily for lack of resources. ECC has also sought out Maret as a partner since their use of the site will meet the needs of children in the community.

Second, this is not intense use of the site. Maret students will only use the field after school hours during the week and only on occasional weekends. There will only be one game at a time. There will be no lights on the field so activity must stop at sundown. Other users of the site, for soccer and baseball, will be one game at a time. There will not be multiple users or multiple games.

Third, this is the lower disturbance of the site than alternatives. The permeable surface of the artificial turf and development of a plan for water runoff and management is something that does not exist now and will enhance rather than worsen existing water management issues.

This is all about the mutually supportive missions of ECC and Maret -- clearly its not about the money. If this transaction was about the money the ECC could just sell the site to a developer for denser mixed use residential and commercial development as has been promoted throughout the city. As for Maret, they will not be making money off of sublease to DC youth sports groups. Maret subleases provide a means for Maret to carry through on commitments to community.

Maret can hold any sub-leasees accountable for responsible use of the field(s) while meeting Maret values of sharing its assets so that it can serve the interests of a broader DC community when available. Furthermore, Maret plans to charge minimal costs to sub-lessees in order to maintain the fields after proposed uses. Maret's commitment to the community would not leave this important asset dormant while its students are not using it, which is much of the time!

Full disclosure, I am the parent of a Maret Alumnus which gives me both more insight about the school but also no direct benefit from having a field nearby since it was over a decade ago. Second, I also live within the Small Area Plan zone for Chevy Chase DC's Connecticut Avenue Corridor slated for higher density development so I understand angst of the site's neighbors about proposed change from its undisturbed state but also potential for other types of development.

Maret is anything but "elitist" as might be assumed from the "elite" placed before its name in some communications. Maret works hard to value diverse cultures and communities, to partner with community schools, to support its students by nurturing a student body that reflects the broader community makeup to prepare all its students to contribute to the real world.

I am not dismissing those who have raised concerns, but rather putting them in context. I trust the public review process, but also know that comments are often offered by those with concerns rather than support, so I am weighing in. The Maret sports field project provides an

important asset to the community, ensures responsible use, minimizes potential adverse impacts, and secures productive use of the property consistent with its long term land use.

Thanks for listening.

Cheryl Wasserman

December 6, 2021

Kevin@hardyfamily.me

Dear Mr. Zeldin,

I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to write to express my support for the project that Maret School is proposing for the field at ECC. I am a longtime resident of Chevy Chase DC and also a longtime parent at Maret. From those perspectives, I can say two things: (1) It would be great to see the ECC property actually used in a way that benefits the overall community and, in particular, children. It's a beautiful and easily-accessible location, and the proposed plan shows that it can be adapted for sports use with minimal impact on the land or the surrounding area. (2) I can say with the utmost confidence that Maret is a wonderful neighbor and community member. Maret is a very small school, and the proposed use of the ECC field will not somehow transform the area into a massive sports destination, as some have suggested. Due to the size of the school, the teams are typically relatively small, and so the number of attendees at Maret games is similarly modest when compared to much larger schools.

I would be happy to discuss the proposal at any time, as would other members of the local and Maret communities.

Happy Holidays,

Kevin Hardy

December 6, 2021

Bethany Velasco (To Commissioner Gore)

Hello Lisa,

My husband Joel and I live at 6352 31st Place NW and have two sons at Maret in 10th and 8th grades.

I write in support of the Maret proposed athletic fields at ECC. The many advantages of this partnership include, but are not limited to: The sounds and sights of young people and children playing; A well-taken care of property, complete with landscaping and trees receiving appropriate attention from arborists, proper drainage, etc;

Use by two long-established DC constituents - Maret School and the ECC - through a partnership that benefits both, as well as others in the community.

Maret is actively addressing neighbor concerns with good faith and willingness to negotiate. I request that you keep an open mind as you proceed with this process.

Thank you,

Bethany Velasco

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Bethany: +1 (202) 258-8339

home@velasco.com

December 2, 2021

William Leibner

(To Commissioner Chang)

Commissioner Chang,

My name is Will Leibner, I live at 3701 Northampton St NW and wanted to express my unequivocal support for the Maret athletic fields project at the ECC on Utah Avenue. The space is completely underutilized now. Maret's plan is measured, reasonable and would bring fantastic opportunities for youth sports activity to the neighborhood beyond just Maret student-athletes. Frankly, when I hear about some of the NIMBYism resistance to this neighborhood improvement, I fear that our neighborhood will be forever stuck in a resistance-focused mindset. Let's be good partners with Maret and bring a fantastic addition to the community.

Thank You.

Will Leibner

December 2, 2021

Commissioner Randy Spec Randy.Speck@anc.dc.gov, Commissioner Thomas Quinn 3E04@anc.dc.gov

Dear Commissioners Speck and Quinn,

As a parent and resident in NW DC (ANC 3E, single member district SMD 3E04), I write to wholeheartedly endorse the Maret School and Episcopal Center For Children's planned leasing arrangement for the development of athletic fields on the ECC campus. For full disclosure, I am also a parent at Maret. As any parent of a young athlete in DC knows, field space in DC is extremely tight. We've signed up for several DC-based leagues for my eight-year old son that end up scheduling all of their games in Montgomery County. We end up getting ice cream, gasoline, groceries and buying other food right after these games in Montgomery County because that is where we happen to be. I'd much rather be contributing to DC's economy and supporting DC-based businesses.

Creative solutions to expand field space within DC like the one presently under consideration – and especially ones between private entities that benefit the wider public – should be encouraged. I've lived in the District and in several different neighborhoods for twenty years and am very invested in it prospering while retaining its essential character. That's a tricky balance, but if our great city wants to attract more and more residents and businesses, it will need to accommodate the needs that flow from those decisions. This includes expanding field space.

The Maret-ECC partnership seems to do that without sacrificing any public lands, which seems to be a win-win for everyone.

All the best
Praveen Madhiraj

December 2, 2021

From: Michael McCaughan <Michael.McCaughan@previsionpolicy.com>

To: "Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03)" <3G03@anc.dc.gov>

Dear Randy,

I am writing to you in support of the proposal to use the ECC property on Nebraska Avenue as a multi-use athletic field. I am a resident of the ANC (3907 Jocelyn Street) and also a Maret parent – although both of our children will have graduated before the proposed field would be available for use.

While I strongly value the luxury of having a pristine, semi-private park on the property, I also recognize that it is unrealistic (and probably a little selfish) to expect it to stay that way forever. Given the realities of the situation at ECC, I can think of no better outcome than the proposed plan to convert the site into an athletic field for Maret.

I can speak first-hand to Maret's commitment to being a good neighbor. My wife and I lived for 15 years literally around the corner from the Maret campus in Woodley Park, and we always viewed it as a positive force in our neighborhood—both before we had children and as young parents. We have fond memories of playing on the Maret playground and visiting their annual fete with toddlers in tow – welcomed as neighbors, even though we weren't parents at the school.

Indeed, our decision to send our kids to Maret (after they aged out of our local elementary school) was driven in large part by the welcoming, diverse and open community that we already enjoyed at the school.

Now that I am a Maret parent, I can see that the sense of community is no accident. The school deeply values being in every sense a good neighbor and a positive force in the broader community. I know Maret is listening carefully to ECC's neighbors to help make sure that the proposed new fields will be a great asset to the neighborhood for years to come. I also want to speak as a long-time DC resident who raised two children who played recreational sports (softball, baseball and soccer) in the city. I know how important it was to our children to have that experience: the exercise, the fun, and the socialization (to say nothing of how much we as parents benefited from socializing with other parents when our kids were very little.)

I also remember well how those activities involved driving to another neighborhood to use a field – and, occasionally, having games cancelled or rescheduled because a field was unavailable. Simply put, DC needs more high quality athletic fields that the community can use. I know Maret is committed to making the field available to other organizations (including DC Soccer). While that may feel like a further disruption to the status quo, I strongly believe the neighborhood and the city overall will benefit greatly from having more fields to support youth athletics.

I also know how much my family benefited from using fields that other neighborhoods supported. I hope our neighborhood can do the same for others in the future.

Thank you for your attention and your work on behalf of us all at the ANC. I would happily provide any additional information you might want.

Best,

Mike

Michael McCaughan
Co-Founder Prevision Policy LLC
202-641-0389

December 2, 2021

henry.n.smith@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Lisa Gore,

I'm writing to express my support for the athletic fields at ECC project proposed by the Maret School. I am a resident of ANC 3/4G-01 and an '01 alumnus of Maret. I can remember how difficult it was to secure field space for athletics when I attended Maret 20 years ago and it is disheartening to know that this is still an issue for the school. From everything I've learned about this project, however, it truly sounds like a win-win for both Maret and ECC. I am also the father of a 5-year-old daughter who loves to play soccer in the neighborhood and I look forward to kicking a soccer ball around with her on these fields one day. Please take note of my support and I look forward to lending further support to this project throughout the ANC and BZA process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Henry Smith
6361 31st PI NW, Washington, DC 20015
(202) 256-1335
henry.n.smith@gmail.com

December 1, 2021

To: Speck, Randy (SMD 3G03); Higgins, John (SMD 3G02)

Dear Randy and John,

I write today to voice my support for the ECC-Maret partnership relating to the planned development of the grounds of the ECC. While I have two children currently enrolled at Maret, one of whom will benefit from the project, my association with the immediate vicinity of the ECC predates my connection to Maret and will endure long after their departures from the School. Over the years, I have become quite familiar with the property that anchors the corner of Nebraska and Utah Aves. The distinguished campus atop the hill is immediately recognizable to thousands of residents as they traverse the Nebraska & Utah corridors and in many respects, its presence provides steady reassurance that one has arrived in their home neighborhood. So I approach the development of the property with a durable relationship to this unique subsection of Chevy Chase, D.C. and over time, I, and countless others, have regularly speculated about what would become of the ECC land if and when it was no longer able to continue operations. Now, the day has arrived for the neighborhood to address its future and the ECC-Maret partnership is, without question, a terrific solution for all stakeholders.

Maret leadership has done a splendid job developing and messaging the contours of the project, the core of which (i) advances Maret's ability to cultivate and sustain their impressive and winning athletic program, (ii) preserves the potential ability of the ECC to resume programming, and (iii) adds accessible and safe outdoor space for local youth sports organizations and neighborhood families. The project strives to maintain a level of tranquility that typifies the historic use of the land but also balances the demands associated with activity on a site that lies in a densely populated neighborhood. Please know that Maret's commitment and attention to the concerns of the community, particularly the considerable effort currently being made to accommodate the interests of the residents whose properties are in very close proximity to the grounds, is representative of the level of excellence and community-oriented collaboration that pervades Maret's affairs and should provide serious encouragement to all stakeholders that Maret is, and will continue to be, an exceptional partner for many many years to come.

I am very excited and I look forward to participating in the ANC discussions over the next several months. Thank you,

Jay Ingram
3115 Quesada St.