

November 12, 2025

Montgomery County  
Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings  
100 Maryland Avenue, Room 200  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to formally express our support for Holton Arm's plan to expand their student body and extra curricular offerings. We live directly across the street from Holton Arms' property on Burdette Court and greatly enjoy having the school "in our backyard". We believe the school has put forward a balance plan that allows the school to remain competitive, while also continuing to be a respectful and thoughtful neighbor to nearby residents.

Our children attend other independent schools in Bethesda, so we can only attest to the school as a wonderful neighbor and a phenomenal summer camp. This summer, our daughter was able to attend the summer camp and it is, by-far, one of the best day camps in all of Montgomery County. The Holton Arms camp offers a joyful, safe, and engaging place for kids to thrive during their summer break. Resources like this are critical to fostering a community of working parents, and we fully support institutions seeking to expand these offerings.

We also welcome the school's expanded use of facilities as rental spaces. As a family that is often driving to Gaithersburg for sports practices, we would be thrilled if Holton Arms was able to alleviate issues related to the field and facility shortage that lower Montgomery County is currently facing.

Lastly, we understand some neighbors may be concerned about traffic – but we believe it is misguided to think that all of the congestion or cut-throughs are solely related to Holton Arms. This traffic exists regardless of whether Holton Arms is in session and it is at it's worst when the Legion Bridge is stopped. It is at this time that we have observed traffic cutting through local neighborhoods and it could take upwards of 14 minutes just to travel North from Wilson to Burdette. In our opinion, this is a larger traffic issue related to poorly timed lights on River Road that are not responsive to time of day traffic flow (the light to turn South on River from Burdette is 120 seconds whether it is 8:30 AM or 11:00 PM). This broader traffic issue should not be conflated with Holton Arms expanding their student base or extra-curricular offerings.

We ask that you add this as official record and would respectfully ask that you pass the proposed amendment during the next hearing. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Katie Hays



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