

December 5, 2008

Dear Neighbor,

In recent months, you may have heard reports about the plans by Saint Joseph's University for the use of the athletic fields that comprise a portion of the former Episcopal Academy campus, which has been purchased by the University and is now called The James J. Maguire '58 Campus.

I wanted you to know that I am well aware that the University's use of its new campus has been the topic of ongoing discussion among some of our neighbors. Despite various perspectives, some more informed than others, the University's intent through the approval and acquisition process regarding The Maguire Campus has remained unchanged: we seek to use the buildings and facilities, including the athletic fields, to benefit our students.

The Maguire Campus is a wonderful addition to the University. We recognize that the site is an integral part of the community that we share – a community in which Saint Joseph's is proud to be a member. Saint Joseph takes seriously its role as a steward of this long-standing community asset, and looks forward to working cooperatively with our neighbors regarding questions that have arisen or issues that might concern them as the University moves forward to use the campus, as anticipated and as approved prior to its acquisition.

As you may know, the University has also been recently involved in pursuing the approval of the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners for its plan to enhance the athletic fields for active use by our student athletes, particularly the varsity baseball field. Our plan, among other things, relocates home plate approximately 70 feet south of its current location; that is, approximately 70 feet toward City Avenue and away from Latches Lane. Other features include improving the field's drainage system; an all-weather field surface that will help with these same drainage issues; new bleacher seating; a small press box; two dugouts; a public address system; and netting along Latches Lane.

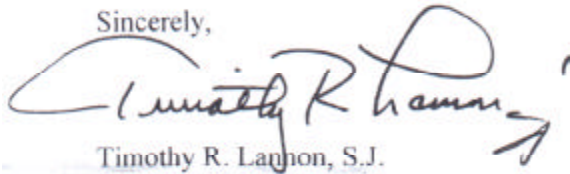
Some of our neighbors have characterized this plan as an attempt to build a college baseball stadium, with seating for thousands of spectators and the attendant noise and traffic issues that would certainly accompany such a design. Let me be as clear as possible on this point: we have no intention of building a stadium; we seek simply to use the field for varsity intercollegiate baseball, with the physical adjustments to the site that are consistent with baseball as described above.

Our plan has raised concerns among some residents of the community that adjoins the Maguire Campus. To address these concerns, last spring the University began to organize community meetings to discuss the proposal and resolve community issues. These meetings have yet to produce an outcome that resolves all concerns or answers all questions, though we remain committed to a resolution.

On December 8, the Lower Merion Township Zoning Hearing Board will hear the University's appeal of a recent decision by Michael Wylie, Zoning Officer, regarding the athletic fields. Consequently, in the days ahead you are likely to hear more about this developing story, and I want you to know that the University will continue to keep you directly informed about significant developments.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Saint Joseph's Maguire Campus. If you have any questions or would like additional information about this matter from the University, please contact the Office of External Affairs at 610-660-1226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President