

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, JOHN FITZGERALD,
HENRY SANTANA, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FLYNN, MEJIA, PEPÉN,
WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH SPORTS ACROSS BOSTON

WHEREAS, When children play and participate in sports and other athletic activities it promotes physical health and mental well-being and teaches the valuable lessons of teamwork, time management, and commitment; *and*

WHEREAS, The administration has made clear commitments to improving availability of youth sports opportunities and information through the ‘youth sports directory,’ which has compiled a large list of both city- and non-profit run sports organizations and programs available to Boston kids; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston also holds Youth Sports Fairs across the city to provide information on available athletic programs to help connect kids with programs or organizations that provide opportunities for participation; *and*

WHEREAS, The City has made substantial commitments in improving youth athletic facilities, such as the recently proposed White Stadium renovation that would expand the available time for athletes and make much needed improvements to the facility; *and*

WHEREAS, There are over 250 sports nonprofits operating in the City of Boston, providing an abundance of opportunities for participation but also creating a difficult maze for parents to navigate; *and*

WHEREAS, Organizations have had difficulty gaining access to the necessary equipment, such as JP Youth Soccer needing to pay to provide lights themselves at Pagel Field; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a direct correlation between family income and participation in youth sports, creating a barrier to cross-economic social engagement and opportunities for lower-income children; *and*

WHEREAS, The City has committed “to survey families and caregivers to determine how young people become involved in sports and conduct an audit of the City’s sports facilities with an eye toward increasing staff levels, constructing new facilities and renovating existing ones,” which should provide key information on how to effectively expand youth sports opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, This Council has an opportunity to be a part of that process and can help advocate for the necessary funding and structures to break down barriers and increase participation and support for working families across Boston; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review City organization of youth sport opportunities and work with the administration to identify key barriers to participation and methods of expanding access.

Filed on: March 13, 2024