

December 12, 2020

The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor of the City of Newton

Newton City Council
Newton Parks and Recreation Commission
Newton Programs and Services Committee

Dear Mayor Fuller,

I write to you on behalf of the Newton Athletic Fields Foundation (www.FixNewtonsFields.com) to seek your formal commitment to Fix Newton's Fields. Leaders in Newton's Athletic community have been voicing concerns for years about the dangerously sub-par conditions, inequitable management of and dire need for action with Newton's athletic fields. Despite repeated attempts to convey the message and collaboratively address the issues (discussions with you, members of your administration and members of the City Council, attending both committee and public meetings, hiring consulting firms to provide expertise and providing inputs to the OSRP) negligible progress has been made.

Since the voices of our Athletic Program Leaders have been ignored, we have engaged members of the community to bolster our support. **To date, we have 1,000 signatures on the attached petition asking you to "Fix Newton's Fields"**. Also attached is a selection of the 100+ comments we received from Newton residents. The message we received was unambiguous: Newton is a laggard in athletic facilities.

In a time when most of our children spend their entire school day in front of a computer screen, athletics is one of the few available outlets. Athletic fields are by far one of Newton's most utilized resources, yet the needs of athletes and the benefits of sports do not garner any attention in comparison to other programs and projects in our city.

The City's lack of commitment is clear in the recently published Capital Improvement Plan that had no funding for multi-purpose field projects. It is also demonstrated by what appears to be a refusal to bring athletic facility projects to the Community Preservation Committee (currently managing \$10M in funding) where athletic facilities are statutorily permitted purposes.

We look forward to your formal response on the specific steps you will take to ensure a plan is authored and a date by which we can expect it's delivery for review.

Sincerely,

Justin Traxler
President Newton Girls Soccer
Founder Newton Athletic Field Foundation

John Stephans
President, Newton Youth Soccer

Larry Casillo
President, Newton Youth Lacrosse

Sam Figler
Member, Newton Park and Recreation Commission
Director, Newton Youth Lacrosse

Nancy Sweatt
President, Newton Girls Lacrosse

Fran Yerardi
Founder, Girls LAX Newton

Eric Busa
Director, Newton Mustangs Football

Burt Granovsky
Head Coach, Newton Youth Ultimate

Jacob Groshek
Founder, Commissioner Newton Area Flag Football