

All:

As we all know, our community has made a significant investment in the future of sports and sports programming with the Ridge Athletic Facility. We can all agree that as a community we want to position ourselves to provide our youth with the most impactful opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities as those sports provide a positive pathway for development and growth.

Clearly, the news of the past week has created upheaval in our youth sports programming. For over a year we have expressed concerns to the Mayor and City Administration regarding City Stars. These concerns have included, but are not limited to, concerns regarding the structure of City Stars, the myriad of potential conflicts involving City Stars and the city, the use of city assets and facilities by City Stars without a valid agreement with the city, city employees being the primary board members of City Stars, and perhaps most importantly we have repeatedly raised numerous concerns regarding the finances and financial representations made by those involved with City Stars. These concerns were ignored or minimized by the Mayor and the administration until the Department of Justice investigation was made public. While the dissolution of City Stars appears to be a necessary step as we move forward as a community, we are at a crossroads when it comes to deciding how to proceed.

While change can be difficult, it also presents our community the opportunity to be thoughtful in how we proceed so that we can ensure that the steps taken provide for minimal disruption in the short term but also allows us to create a structure for long term success both with the quality of programming available to our youth, and our ability to maximize sports tourism opportunities for years to come. Accordingly, at this time we would encourage that any stop-gap measures that are taken be temporary and that we engage in discussions about the best way to move forward in securing the best programming and events for our kids and community both now and for the years to come.

Specifically, we recommend that an outside citizen group be created to review sports programming and sports tourism. We all have a vested interest in getting this right, so let's take the time and opportunity to do just that. At this time, we would ask that the City Council take action to set up a sports advisory committee with representatives from the

City Council, A&P Commission, and the Public Facilities Board to assist in guiding us through this important process. Please let us know if this can be added to an upcoming City Council agenda for discussion.

Thanks

Matt Modelevsky

Chairman of the Public Facilities Board

and

Jerry Morgan

Chairman of the A&P Commission