



1631 NE Broadway Street, #705
Portland OR 97232-1425

May 21st, 2013

Re: Madison High School Field

To: Chair Cogen
Commissioner Kafoury
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Shiprack
Commissioner McKeel

On behalf of Northeast United Soccer and the 1300 youth players (and growing) we represent, I would like to submit this letter of support for the Madison High School field project.

Northeast United Soccer Club (NEU), several years ago, adopted as one of our primary goals a focus on securing safe playing fields for our players and the players from visiting teams. The field situation in Portland Metro has deteriorated to a point where it is unsafe for our children to play, so much so, that organizations like ours have begun to move resources away from such things as scholarships and financial aid to invest in publically owned fields.

We believe we should be in the scholarship and financial aid business, but do not believe we should be in the field business, especially with fields we will never own or control. However, with thousands of kids being forced to play at facilities that are unsafe, we have decided that we can no longer sit back and wait for these improvements.

The trade-off of limiting access to underserved youth to protect the youth who already play (and who can pay) is unfair and a difficult balance, but a choice that has been forced upon us by the lack of attention to our playing fields. Our club funds 10% of our club members with financial support, that number easily could be 20% or more, the need is that great.

Much of this is no surprise to you. But, I believe that there are additional reasons to support a project like this.

- Madison is a SUN school. SUN schools have higher graduation rates. Northeast United Soccer is also in discussions to provide funding to a couple of SUN schools to provide overall wellness programs through the vehicle of soccer.
 - The SUN program brings additional community needs to this area, but they should have the same equitable resources as non-SUN schools.
 - Strong core instructional programs
 - Educational support and skill development for youth and adults
 - Enrichment and recreational activities
 - Family involvement and support
 - Social, health and mental health resources



- Family and community events
- Players from both sides of the river should have the same access to safe playing fields.
- Many different organizations (for-profit and non-for-profit) are coming together to insure projects like this succeed.
- 82nd Avenue has been the center of conversation for improvement for years.
 - 82nd Avenue needs to again see reasons to have pride for their community. A community field, with activity from all ages would help to give them that reason.
 - Sex Trafficking, strip clubs, drug dealing must not be the focused activity. Family activities with a safe place for families to go must be the focused activity.
 - The economic impact will be positive when this field can draw thousands of new people to the area as a destination, not just a drive through.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support. Our club is dedicated to the fields issue and we believe it to be an issue that ripples into youth safety, youth success, economic development and community building.

Andrew Frazier
Board President
Northeast United Soccer (NEU)