

June 3, 2022

Aldersperson Andre Vasquez
40th Ward, Aldersperson
5620 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60659



Greetings Aldersperson Vasquez,

Thank you for attending our *Amundsen Athletic Foundation* (AAF, a registered 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting school and community support for all Amundsen High School athletics programs) meeting on May 12, 2022, to address the state of the athletic fields in Winnemac Park. It was helpful to formally bring together the city, Chicago Park District, Principal Pavichevich, AHS coaching staff, the school community and other stakeholders after four years of conversations with the 40th Ward aimed at helping the school prioritize the safety and functionality of the fields for people of all ages within our neighborhood and for those who travel to enjoy them from across the city.

At that meeting, attendees agreed AAF would create a *Field Committee* to represent the school and additional community stakeholders as the collective voice for input on the vision, design and timing for capital improvements to be made to the fields from the west of Amundsen, the south of Foster Avenue, to the east of Chappell Elementary and north of the cement path running along the south end of the high school. This area currently includes the baseball field and practice fields used by all levels of the Amundsen soccer and baseball teams, as well as numerous non-school youth and adult leagues. The Field Committee met and aligned our recommendations for immediate and transparent action to affect short- and long-term outcomes with feasible solutions based on your stated commitment to dedicate *Tax Increment Financing* (TIF) monies for improvements to the park, specifically to the aforementioned area.

We welcome and appreciate your commitment to the school community as a whole. This letter serves as a formal request for your office to initiate the process by July 2022 of securing

the release of committed TIF the Chicago Park District specifically deemed necessary in order to activate the first steps of the design phase for project planning. The committee strongly believes having a full understanding of potential costs for the entire area, specifically as it relates to drainage, can be leveraged in current and future planning. The Field Committee has enlisted and received support for this effort to date from the following:

- AHS Baseball Coaches
- AHS Football Coaches
- AHS Girls & Boys Soccer Coaches
- AHS Softball Coaches
- Friends of Amundsen
- Welles Park Parent Association

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuous and tangible progress in this effort. Please respond directly to Elvia Heneghan, AAF Secretary and Field Committee member, to confirm receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Amundsen Athletic Foundation, Field Committee

Elvia Heneghan
Heidi Hoffman
Suzanne Kaplan
Margaret O’Conor
Mike O’Keefe
Jason Wentworth

Cc:

Principal Anna Pavichevich, *AHS*
David Chinchilla, *AHS Acting-AD*
Michelle Grunfeld, *AFF Board President*
Stephen Reynolds, *AHS LSC Board President*
David Rosengard, *CPS ED Sports Administration*
Tim Jefferies, *CoC Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Planning & Development*
Alderman Matt Martin, *47th Ward*

Chicago Park District:

Rosa Escareño, *Superintendent & CEO*
Tiffany Sostrin, *Director of Dept. of Legislative and Community Affairs*
Anastasia Anti, *North Region Director*
Lisa Ragucci, *Winnemac Park Supervisor*