



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466
Office: 617 796-1500
Fax: 617 796-1512



FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

April 3, 2006

Arthur Cohen, Chair
Design Review Committee
Public Buildings Department
52 Elliot Street
Newton, MA 02464

Subject: Newton North High Athletic Space

It has come to our attention that the Design Review Committee has expressed an interest in the possibility of moving certain athletic fields and/or facilities to other locations within the City of Newton Parks and Recreation areas and fields.

Open space and athletic space in the City is at a premium, and use is currently maximized. We strongly support the position of the Newton North High Athletic Department that the school and community should have the same facilities on-site as they currently have in order to minimize the impact on community and school use.

Plans to move any of the fields and/or tennis courts from their current locations on site at Newton North High to an off site park is not as simple as just re-scheduling some games. Consideration must also be given to the impact on the footprint of a park and how moving fields and facilities compromise current park use. Any plan to move facilities will also have a major impact on our ability to provide quality recreation programs and still provide space for the numerous residents requesting access to our fields and facilities.

A domino effect is created where current users (non-public schools, residents) of parks and recreation areas, fields and tennis courts would be displaced with no where to go.

Sincerely,

Fran L. Towle, Commissioner

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