



Spoken 3/25/13

Good morning Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Laurie Albano. I am the Acting Director of Parks and recreation and I am here today representing the City of Stamford and Mayor Pavia in seeking your support for Section 7 of HB 6672 An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land. Section 7 would convey Cubeta Stadium from the State of Connecticut to the City of Stamford.

As one of two major league sized fields in our parks system, Cubeta Stadium is essential to baseball in Stamford. Cubeta is woven into the fabric of Stamford's very active baseball community and a part of its glorious past. Each year hundreds of young boys and men look forward to playing there. Cubeta hosts over 250 games per summer season and is home to Babe Ruth, American Legion, 19 and Over and 30 and Over baseball leagues. In addition it hosts various State and National Tournaments and it is not an exaggeration to say that without Cubeta, there would not be baseball as we know it in Stamford. The current lease with the State of CT/Department of Education expires on July 21, 2013, however, to the best of our knowledge it has been leased for well over 30 years. We respectfully urge your support for the conveyance of Cubeta Stadium to the City of Stamford.

Cubeta is also a close neighbor to Stamford's recently upgraded Scalzi Park sharing the same entrance, and to the public eye, very little delineation is seen differentiating the park from the stadium emphasizing Cubeta even more as part of the Stamford community. Stamford citizens do not make a distinction between Cubeta and Scalzi, they are one in the same. In addition we make investments in Cubeta as if it were our own based not only on our current lease, but also out of our pride in the Stadium. Our parks maintenance staff devotes significant time and resources (over 800 labor hours per year) at an approximate cost of \$30,000 annually doing day to day operational maintenance. In addition we make repairs both small and large scale. Recently we have just ordered a new \$36K electrical distribution system and panels and over \$500K is earmarked for fiscal year 13/14 capital repairs/replacement of the entire sports lighting fixtures. We recently along with local volunteers scrubbed and painted the entire bleachers. Other repairs and enhancements include custom windscreens, infield grading, dug out renovation/drainage, padded safety railings and turf management protocols. Given the above and the millions of dollars recently spent renovating Scalzi Park, Cubeta completes the range of recreation opportunities of this beloved urban passive and active recreation center.

Should Cubeta be conveyed to the City of Stamford, it is understood that after J.M. Wright Technical High School re-opens, we will as always provide the stadium to the school for its inter-scholastic baseball program and special events such as graduation ceremonies. As in the past we will continue to be a good neighbor and collaborator with Wright Tech.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this request and it is our great hope that Cubeta Stadium will forever be a part of the City of Stamford via its ownership of it and its perpetual care and pride in it.

Laurie Albano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Albano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dir. Parks and Recreation