



**John DeStefano, Jr.**  
*Mayor*

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**Testimony of the City of New Haven**  
**Before the Commerce Committee**

*Regarding*

**HB 6071 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR KIMBERLY PARK IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN and HB 6072 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE RENOVATION OF CRISCUOLO PARK IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN**

*Submitted by*

Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief of Staff, New Haven  
February 14, 2013

Senator Lebeau, Rep. Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee,

The City of New Haven is pleased to have the opportunity to comment in support of HB 6071 and HB 6072 in support of our local parks.

Kimberly Park and Criscuolo park sit in our Hill and Fair Haven neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are both dense urban neighborhoods with limited open space. These parks are therefore heavily used, and greatly appreciated.

Bonding for improvements in these parks would be used to expand the number and quality of our sports fields. New Haven has numerous competitive sports leagues. Children and adults alike frequent our parks for soccer, baseball, rugby and other sports. There is such a demand for our fields that leagues compete for park access and times. Our fields are so over-utilized that despite trying to limit play time, and employing advanced seeding and irrigation techniques by mid season the grass in these fields are heavily damaged creating extremely muddy playing conditions.

Expanding the number and quality of our sports fields would enable the parks division to schedule more of these leagues and help to expand the recreational activities for our cities youth.

Thank you for your consideration.