



Commonwealth of Virginia

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Joint Board Matter

Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk

and

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity

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Mr. Chairman—Cricket is among the most popular and fastest growing sports in the world. As one of the most diverse, multicultural, and populous jurisdictions in the country, it makes sense that it is also one of the most popular and in-demand sports in our county. This is evidenced by the regular inquiries that my office receives requesting increased access to fields that could serve as cricket pitches. Unfortunately, the field dimensions required for a regulation cricket pitch are extremely difficult to assemble based on the standard field dimensions utilized by the Park Authority. Given these challenges, the ability for Fairfax County residents to play cricket on a regulation pitch is virtually non-existent.

Fortunately, late last year Major League Cricket (MLC) announced the approval of an exploratory relationship with George Mason University to investigate the feasibility of developing a new multi-purpose cricket and baseball facility. If

deemed feasible, the potential facility would host Major League Cricket matches, GMU baseball games, and other community and university events. This innovative approach has the potential to fill a recreational void in our community, provide a multi-use amenity of benefit to the entire county, and generate a meaningful economic impact as the sole facility of its kind in the region.

I'm personally excited about the possibility that this joint venture presents, and feel that it is critical that our county step forward as a thought-partner in this evaluation. While the Department of Economic Initiatives has undertaken initial efforts on this project, I am seeking to increase visibility by engaging additional departments in a coordinated effort to expand recreational access in the county.

With that in mind Mr. Chairman, Supervisor Herrity and I move that:

The County Executive assign the appropriate staff to establish a working partnership between George Mason University, Major League Cricket, the Park Authority, the Department of Economic Initiatives, the County's Sports Tourism Task Force, and Visit Fairfax to ensure not only that there is an open dialogue between each of those stakeholders, but also that the County is fully integrated into the study so that it can provide both feedback and information as part of that review.

To be clear, my motion is not requesting that additional resources or funding be allocated to this effort, but rather that those entities be integrated with the existing study which is already underway, and that is directly correlated to their respective core missions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.