

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

AUGUST 27, 2013

SUBJECT:

City of Aiken playground at North Aiken Elementary

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Crosland Park Neighborhood adjoins North Aiken Elementary. The City of Aiken has Identified Crosland Park as a key component of the City's Northside Redevelopment Plan. The City would like to build a playground on the campus of North Aiken Elementary to aide in this plan. The district and city have had a similar venture at Schofield Middle School.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Another developed playground area would benefit the students of North Aiken Elementary. The City would maintain the area. The school district staff was involved in the site selection.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Allow the City and the district to enter into an agreement to build the playground.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter from Mr. Richard Pearce, City of Aiken City Manager

PREPARED BY:

David M. Caver

CITY OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



File
[Signature]

P.O. Box 1177
Aiken, SC 29802

311@cityofaikensc.gov
<http://cityofaikensc.gov>

July 31, 2013

Mr. David Caver
Aiken County Schools
1000 Brookhaven Drive
Aiken, SC 29803

Dear David:

Aiken City Council has identified our Crosland Park neighborhood as a key component of the City of Aiken's Northside Redevelopment Initiative. Since 2009, many improvements to the quality of life have been made in Crosland Park. They include the sewer infrastructure upgrades, repaving streets, installing sidewalks, street lights, curbing, gutters, storm drains, razing substandard housing, renovation of 20 homes, and continuing good relationships between Public Safety officers and neighborhood residents.

Improving the quality of life in this area also involves having activities for children. Our staff has conducted youth camps for Crosland Park children each summer and over extended school breaks for several years. We propose a joint venture with the Aiken County School District and the City of Aiken. Under it we would purchase and install a playground on School District property near Aldrich Street Safe Routes to School access point. We believe it would provide a good place for school children to exercise and play. Our Parks, Recreation, and Tourism staff would maintain this installation for the benefit of the children of Crosland Park. We support the District using this playground during North Aiken Elementary School recess periods as well.

Our cooperative efforts at Schofield Middle School at Perry Park has been very successful. We hope the School District Board of Education would agree and support our request to install this equipment. We have up to \$25,000 to commit to this installation.

Please let me know what other information I may provide to help in reviewing our request.

Best Regards,

Richard L. Pearce
City Manager

cc: G. Parker
S. Bedenbaugh

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City Manager (803) 642-7654
Finance (803) 642-7603
Legal / Staff Attorney (803) 642-7654

Human Resource (803) 642-7654
Engineering & Utilities (803) 642-7610
Planning (803) 642-7608

P B-3 (803) 642-7620
F (803) 642-7613
Par Attachment (803) 642-7630