



Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

Amendment

Motion: Youth Football Field Support

January 20, 2026

WE MOVE that, within 60 days, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) identify 2-3 sites, or evaluate the practicality of developing 2-3 sites, in the City of Cincinnati that can be dedicated for Youth Football Leagues practices and games, as well as any funding that may be needed. The report should include consideration regarding the feasibility of hosting games and/or practice at the Cincinnati Police Department's Training Academy when the field is not in use.

STATEMENT

The City of Cincinnati has dedicated baseball and soccer fields within the city, but we do not have dedicated fields for Youth Football. There are fourteen (14) youth football teams in the City of Cincinnati each with ~100 kids. These teams are mostly staffed with volunteers who piece together funding and dedicate hours of their time to coaching the teams and young athletes. Some teams have space to practice and play games, but others, especially those serving less affluent neighborhoods, do not. For example, teams such as the Evanston Bulldogs carve out space at Owl's Nest Park and/or Evanston Playground. There is an option of playing on Cincinnati Public School fields, but that is cost prohibitive for most teams to rent that space.

Other cities such as Columbus and Dayton have dedicated Youth Football Fields within their city that include a field for practices and playing games, bleachers for family/friends, restrooms, overhead lights to allow for evening games, etc.

This motion asks that CRC to identify 2-3 sites for dedicated Youth Football fields and funding needed for them. This dedicated space will support teams that are serving the less affluent neighborhoods of Cincinnati give children in those neighborhoods the opportunity to better their circumstances and learn the positive benefits that come with team sports and football.

Additionally, The Cincinnati Police Department's Training Academy, located in Lower Price Hill, has a field that is occasionally used by community members for various activities, such as

physical training and family football games. Community members can reach out with requests to use the field when it's not being utilized by CPD, and they are asked to sign a waiver. This could be an exciting collaboration between CPD and the community, while also providing a sense of safety at youth football events. With this in mind, it is essential that CPD's training remains uninterrupted, as officers in training require best-in-class instruction.