

NM2009- February 12

RE: Development of Artificial Turf Fields at the Calgary Soccer Centre

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

WHEREAS the Calgary Soccer Federation has conducted fiscally prudent operations, has repaid loans on time or in advance and has not requested additional funds for operations since its inception 17 years ago;

AND WHEREAS the 10 Year Strategic Plan for Sport Facility Development and Enhancement (CPS2008-46) identified soccer and hockey as the two priority sports in Calgary with more than 50,000 participants, outdoor rectangular fields as one of the primary facility types which should receive emphasis for facility development, enhancement and accessibility to address the growing needs to reduce or eliminate gaps in the supply of facilities;

AND WHEREAS the 10 Year Strategic Plan also identified the current focus in the city on high performance winter sport has limited the exposure to summer sport and, as such, may be impacting facility development and participation in these sport activities;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the significant shortfall of quality rectangular fields in Calgary and that Calgary has only one existing artificial turf field available to soccer (McMahon Stadium), Calgary has not been chosen to host any major national and international soccer events due to a lack of appropriate numbers of clustered fields of sufficient size and quality;

AND WHEREAS the Calgary Soccer Federation has developed a detailed business case for the installation of 5 artificial turf fields at the Calgary Soccer Centre at an estimated cost of \$11 million in CPS2009-08 ARTIFICIAL TURF INVESTMENT AND PERMANENT LOCATION report which was unanimously passed by Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada recently announced that local hockey rinks, swimming pools and other community sites throughout Canada will be eligible to receive funding for upgrades, fix-ups and new construction through the \$500 million new Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RINC) Program which will be administered through Western Economic Diversification Canada;

AND WHEREAS The Calgary Soccer Federation has submitted a funding request application to the Province of Alberta through the Major Community Facility Program for up to \$3.4 million;

AND WHEREAS The Calgary Soccer Federation is committed to fundraising up to \$2.75 million;

AND NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT Calgary City Council commit \$2.75 million to the installation of 5 artificial turf fields, contingent upon matching funding from the Government of Canada, The Province of Alberta and the Calgary Soccer Federation.



Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart