



**To The City of Columbia - Department of Parks and Recreation**

Fr. Tolton Catholic High School would like to publicly support the City of Columbia Capital Improvement Project: Southeast Regional Park Tennis Complex. We have seen and enthusiastically approve of the 3-phase plan to build tennis courts, pickleball courts, and assorted supporting amenities. We believe that this project will have a profound impact on our school, our students and the greater community at large.

Overall, the project's close proximity just north of our school property in Philips Park, will benefit our athletic program and permit our physical education classes to gain access to a great sport and lifetime activity. Currently, our tennis players travel across town to Cosmo to practice and compete. This travel can cause a strain on our players, particularly our young players, and there are always concerns about the safety of our athletes when they have to travel in high speed traffic on highways every day for practices and games. The nearby location of the courts will help grow our program by making it more attractive to students who can take advantage of the convenient location and not have to travel far off campus to daily practice.

The construction of these courts may also allow us to offer more summer camp opportunities for current students and area youth.

In the future, when all three phases are completed, we would be able to partner with the department to host tournaments and matches which would benefit our school and the City of Columbia by increasing tourism. Teams from out of town would be able to access great facilities and they and their families would benefit the local economy while attending games here.

To conclude, Fr. Tolton Catholic High School fully supports the City of Columbia Capital Improvement Project: Southeast Regional Park Tennis Complex. We feel it is a great addition to the community of Columbia and provides exciting opportunities for our school. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Parks and Recreation department on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

  
Deacon Dan Joyce, President

  
Mrs. Gwenn Roche, Principal

Mr. Chad Masters, Athletic Director

