



March 15, 2023

City of Columbia  
City Council  
PO Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Letter of support for the construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II

Dear Columbia City Council:

This letter is to endorse the second phase of construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse, including the addition of four hardwood courts and supporting amenities.

The Columbia Youth Basketball Association (CYBA) was founded in 1992 and has grown to serve more than 100 teams and 1,000 players every season, thanks in part to the support and partnership of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. When it opened in 2019, the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse became the premier venue for our league. In 2022, the Fieldhouse actually hosted games and practices for 120 local teams and 1,200 kids, ranging in age from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The construction of phase II of the Fieldhouse will expand the facility from four hardwood courts to eight hardwood courts. This will offer needed space to accommodate the growing demand for indoor courts and would allow us to serve additional youth teams.

Investments such as the expansion of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse are critical to keeping up with our growing community and providing recreational opportunities to our youth. On behalf of the CYBA and our young basketball players, I ask for your approval of this construction project. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Berry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dean Berry  
Founder, CYBA Executive Board



March 21, 2023

City of Columbia  
City Council  
PO Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Letter of Support for the construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II

Dear Columbia City Council:

As the Athletic Director of Fr. Tolton Catholic High School, I am writing to give my full endorsement to the construction of the second phase of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse.

Since it opened in 2019, the Sports Fieldhouse has been an essential asset to our school community. Having only one gym, our sports programs are often fighting for gym time. With the creation of the Sports Fieldhouse, we have been able to move our Cheer and Dance team practices off campus. Rather than having to schedule practices late in the evening, with the help of the Sports Fieldhouse, we are able to give all of our programs ideal practice space at time slots convenient to a high school schedule. Besides our Cheer and Dance programs using the space for their seasons, our basketball programs have also utilized the space when our gym has been unavailable. We have also looked into the possibility of our wrestling program using the Fieldhouse in the future.

With how much our school has come to rely on using the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse, it is obvious that we would be in support of the second phase. The Parks and Recreation staff has done an amazing job these past four years working with our school community. With the second phase, they will no doubt be better positioned to serve the greater Columbia community as well.

We are pleased to endorse this important expansion project and look forward to continuing our relationship with The Columbia Sports Fieldhouse for years to come. If you have any questions about how this project would continue to benefit our school community, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 417-224-0363. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Pat Kelly  
Fr. Tolton Catholic High School  
Athletic Director

**SPIRIT**

**HEART**

**MIND**

**BODY**

**"FOLLOW NOT THE WELL-WORN PATH; GO INSTEAD WHERE THERE IS NO PATH AND BLAZE A TRAIL."**

March 15, 2023

City of Columbia  
City Council  
PO Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Letter of support for the construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II

Dear Columbia City Council:

I am submitting this letter in support of the expansion of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse.

The Show-Me State Games' (SMSG) mission is to provide all Missourians the opportunity to participate in activities of health, fitness, family and fun. In 2022, our 38<sup>th</sup> Show-Me State Games and our 28<sup>th</sup> Missouri State Senior Games brought an estimated 38,000 participants and spectators to Columbia and Boone County. Economically, our 2022 events were a force in helping Columbia and Boone County generate more than \$6.5 million of direct economic impact as well as \$12.5 million of an extended economic impact.

The Columbia Sports Fieldhouse has hosted several of SMSG statewide events here in Columbia, since its opening in 2019. These include Hoopin' it Up basketball and summer Show-Me basketball. SMSG events such as these are made possible by high-quality facilities such as the Fieldhouse and by the support of communities such as Columbia. It is imperative to continue to grow and expand to meet the increasing demand and high standards that our participants and their families expect.

The expansion of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse will continue to provide a competitive edge in sports tourism that will sustain economic success moving into the future. I wholeheartedly support the second phase expansion of the Fieldhouse, and would encourage you to authorize its construction. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Fox".

Dave Fox  
Executive Director, Show-Me State Games



# SPORTING COLUMBIA

March 21, 2023

City of Columbia  
City Council  
PO Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Letter of support for the construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II

Members of the Columbia City Council:

I am writing as president of Sporting Columbia Soccer Club to offer our support for the construction of the second phase of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse, including the addition of four hardwood courts and supporting amenities.

Sporting Columbia is a long-time partner of Columbia Parks and Recreation. For many years, our recreational outdoor soccer league games have been played in our City parks. The addition of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse has allowed us to also offer a winter futsal league, a rapidly growing form of indoor soccer played on hardwood courts. Our first futsal league was held this winter at the Fieldhouse, with several hundred youth players from around mid-Missouri participating. Without access to the Fieldhouse, our futsal league would not have been possible.

It is important to note that even with access to the current Fieldhouse facilities, we were forced to limit the number of players due to limited space. The potential growth of our futsal league is almost unlimited, and is only limited by the space available.

We are in full support of the Fieldhouse expansion and look forward to the possibilities the additional courts will provide. On behalf of Sporting Columbia, I ask for your approval of this construction project. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis  
President, Sporting Columbia

March 20, 2023

City of Columbia  
City Council  
P.O. Box 6015  
Columbia, Missouri 65205

Please consider this as a strong letter of support and endorsement for the completion of Phase II of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse expansion. This would include the addition of four hardwood basketball courts which would be lined for pickleball in the same manner as the existing courts are now.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States today with over 36 million playing between August 2021 and August 2022. USA Pickleball has used the current facility several times over the last few years--not only for sanctioned events--but-- also for the Missouri State Show Me/Senior Games. This also would include the Missouri State Indoor Pickleball Championships (2021 & 2022).

I have been working with Zac Franklin of the Sports Commission/Convention and Visitors Bureau to bring a major National Pickleball event to Columbia---either next year or the year after--depending on the completion status of the Fieldhouse expansion.

I understand that the courts currently are used daily by pickleball players not only from the Columbia, Missouri standard metropolitan statistical area but also by those from a 40 to 50 mile radius.

The growth of this sport, because of its tremendous appeal to those of all ages, does not appear that it will slow in the near future.

Thank you for considering my support,

James Berger



Jim Berger / Assistant Regional Director

Middle States Region

Cell / Text: 314-960-1787