

December 10, 2002

Honorable Board of Aldermen
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Forte Park Phase II Renovation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On Monday, December 9, 2002, the Community Preservation Committee having heard a presentation of the above-referenced project, and the public testimony that followed, voted to recommend that your Honorable Board appropriate and transfer \$500,000 from the FY 2003 Community Preservation Fund Current Year Reserve for the Forte Park Phase II Renovation project (see attached copy of application); and that any state and/or federal grant reimbursements be made to the FY 2003 Community Preservation Fund Current Year Reserve.

The Community Preservation Committee finds that MGL c.44B is being served because:

- a) The project will complete the restoration of the six acre park with sports and security lighting for the athletic fields and peripheral jogging/exercise paths; thereby creating land for recreational use; and
- b) The project complies with the recreational needs, possibilities and goals set forth in the *City of Newton Community Preservation Plan*, adopted October 16, 2002.

An application for Urban Self-Help grant funding, submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department in September 2002, is pending at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The Community Preservation Committee has been told that the state grant program requires that local funding be appropriated no later than December 31, 2002. Accordingly, the Committee respectfully requests that the Board take all steps to expedite approval of this new docket item.

David Wilkinson has prepared the attached draft Board Order for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this subject, please call Michael Kruse at 617-796-1130 or me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Sacks, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee

cc: Mayor David B. Cohen
Michael Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer
Sanford Pooler, Chief Budget Officer
David C. Wilkinson, Comptroller