



Boston City Council

Committee on Government Operations

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

November 30, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss Docket #1509, an Ordinance amending CBC Chapter XVIII, section 1.16 to increase fees for lighting of parks and recreation playing fields. This matter was sponsored by Mayor Menino, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010 and heard at a public hearing on November 30th, 2010 at which public comment was taken.

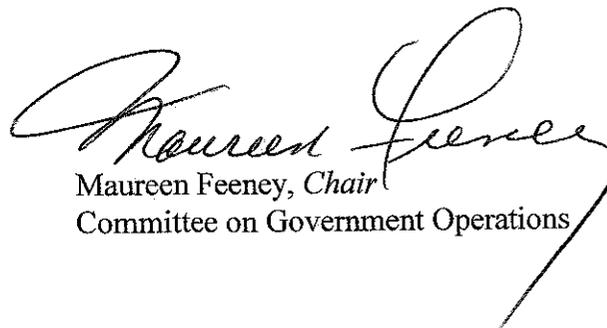
Docket #1509 is an ordinance that proposes a change in the fee structure for lighting services on playing fields operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. According to the existing fee structure, resident adult sports leagues pay a rate of \$25 per hour for the use of playing field floodlights, while non-resident adult leagues pay at a rate of \$50 per hour. This ordinance will increase the rate that non-resident adult leagues pay to \$100 per hour. The rate of resident adult leagues would remain unchanged.

At the hearing, the administration testified that these fees have not been changed since 1982, despite the increase of utility costs. The fees currently received cover less than half of the cost of the lighting the fields. Many of the systems were built in the 1970s and there is an ongoing need to maintain and replace the lighting systems and to make them more efficient. It is estimated that the total annual cost of operating the systems is \$675,000. On the other hand, the revenue collected is only about \$80,000 from resident adult leagues and approximately \$170,000 from nonresident leagues. There is no charge for Boston Public Schools and children and youth leagues.

The Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #1509, Message and ordinance amending CBC Ordinances, Chapter XVIII, section 1.16 to increase fees for lighting of parks and recreation playing fields.

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, the Chair respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass.


Maureen Feeney, *Chair*
Committee on Government Operations