

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: October 23, 2014

1. Education Committee Meet and Greet

On Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Education Committee hosted a “Meet and Greet” for representatives from parent organizations from Bowie schools. Eleven of the 15 Prince George’s County Public Schools in Bowie sent representatives from their parent organizations to this event. The two-hour forum included presentations from Dr. Lisa Reid on Literacy Strategies; Trasee Bradley on Community Resources; Andra Berry, of Bowie Youth & Family Services, on Mentoring/Anti-Bullying; and Tia Ysreal on Why Join School Parent Organizations. Ms. Ysreal is a PTA member at both High Bridge Elementary School and Thomas Pullen Middle School. Ms. Bradley, a Reading Specialist at Woodbridge Elementary School, and Dr. Reid, an Education Consultant for the Maryland Department of Education, are both members of the Education Committee.

2. Artificial Turf Fields

Recent media reports have raised questions about the possibility of health issues related to children playing soccer on artificial turf fields. Staff has consulted with the Executive Director of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA), who informs us that it is and has been MRPA’s position to support synthetic turf fields with both crumb rubber and other infill types. In response to the recent concerns regarding a correlation between crumb rubber infill and cancer in soccer goalies, MRPA offered the following:

- (1) There is no scientific data to support the claim; and
- (2) All reports are anecdotal.

He added that at this point in time, the MRPA continues to support the installation of crumb rubber synthetic turf fields.

Additional information and links to studies performed by the EPA and the Consumer Products Safety Commission as well as a document received from Field Turf, a manufacturer of artificial turf fields, and the original story from NBC News can be found via the following links:

- [http://www.epa.gov/nerl/download\\_files/documents/tire\\_crumbs.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/nerl/download_files/documents/tire_crumbs.pdf)
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/2008/CPSC-Staff-Finds-Synthetic-Turf-Fields-OK-to-Install-OK-to-Play-On/>

- <http://www.fieldturf.com/en/fieldturf-difference/artificial-turf-safety-proven-with-science>
- <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/how-safe-artificial-turf-your-child-plays-n220166>

As you are aware, the City has two artificial turf fields – a soccer field at Allen Pond Park and a football field at Whitemarsh Park. At the current time, teams are practicing and playing as usual on these fields. Should any of our local youth sports organizations request to be reassigned to other fields, we will honor that request to the fullest extent possible. To date we have received no such requests.

3. Purchase of Road Deicing Salt

The Public Works Department has located a contract for the purchase of road deicing salt with Montgomery County (IFB# 1041647) through Morton Salt, Inc., upon which we will be able to piggyback. The current price for salt is \$63.60/ton and we intend to purchase up to 1,500 tons as needed this winter. We will sign a contract and issue a purchase order to Morton Salt, Inc. in the amount of \$95,400. This is within the amount budgeted for FY15. As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to purchase.