

2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

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Budget Action Title: Impose a budget proviso on the DPR budget for scholarship funding to youth sports organizations to help low-income youth pay athletic field fees

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: Yes

Councilmembers: Burgess; Harrell; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Budget Action description:

This green sheet imposes a proviso on funding in the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for funds to award to sports organizations serving low-income youth to help pay for athletic field use, lighting, or staffing fees. Specifically, this green sheet would impose the following budget proviso:

“Of the appropriation in the 2016 budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Recreation Facilities and Programs BCL, \$25,000 is appropriated solely for awarding funds to sports organizations serving low-income youth to defray the costs of their participation in those organizations and may be spent for no other purpose.”

Seattle’s policies for athletic field use, staffing, and lighting fees are the same for all youth sports organizations across the city but do not account for the disproportionate impacts experienced by families in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Such athletics fees can add up to thousands of dollars per year per organization, and these fees get passed through to youths in the form of membership fees. A scholarship fund to help low-income youths from these neighborhoods pay their fees would begin to address these impacts.

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The organizations receiving the awards would also be encouraged to build community trust and help foster positive relationships between youths and the City—particularly with the Seattle Police Department. Such an effort could be integrated with the Seattle Police Department’s efforts to conduct youth outreach through dialogue and to increase positive interactions and relationships between the City and community members.