

From: Hollas, Melanie <MHollas@StamfordCT.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:16 AM
To: Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: Cassone, Thomas <TCassone@StamfordCT.gov>; Capp, Lesley <LCapp@StamfordCT.gov>; Tedder, Michael <MTedder@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Moratorium Policy

Please see email that I sent again this morning to what we are recommending.

Mr. Thompson did reach out to the Commission via email, and we answered his questions prior to the Commission meeting. I will forward you the email from 7/12/124. The reasoning for not allowing expansion is due to the fact that when the Bombers were temporarily sanctioned, there was enough room to accommodate the players they had at the time. As stated in the previous email explaining the Commission's reasoning and in the Draft Moratorium, the fields are at capacity. In order to sanction more leagues there needs to be a field checker that can check to see if the teams are using the fields as stated. As of now, we have to take their word for it through their submitted schedules.

I copied Lesley so she can enter email into correspondence.

Best,

Melanie Hollas
Stamford Parks & Recreation Commission Chair
347.517.0044

From: Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 8:52 AM
To: Hollas, Melanie <MHollas@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: Cassone, Thomas <TCassone@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: FW: Parks & Recreation Commission Moratorium Policy

Hi Melanie – I received the below communication regarding the P&R commission's recent discussions on enacting a moratorium on sanctioned leagues. Not quite sure where the issue stands but I'm copying Tom Cassone so this can accompany your previous request to legal.

Thanks, Matt

From: carlton.thompson@yahoo.com <carlton.thompson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Quiñones, Matt <MQuinones@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Parks & Recreation Commission Moratorium Policy

Mr. Quinones,

I am writing on behalf of the Stamford Bombers regarding a recent decision by the Parks and Recreation Commission at a meeting on August 21, 2024. At the meeting, the Commission engaged in a discussion about enacting a moratorium on sanctioned leagues. We understand that the Commission voted to adopt the moratorium and that it would then be sent to you and the City's Legal Department for further review. We want to share our thoughts on certain language in the proposed moratorium policy. In particular, there is language that directly impacts the Bombers' development as an organization. Due to the format of the Commission meeting, we did not have the opportunity to address this language before they approved the policy, but we want to raise the issue before the moratorium policy is formalized.

In the proposed moratorium policy shared at the Commission meeting, there is language that states, *“Leagues that have current temporary status will be required to come before the Commission for full approval and will not be allowed to expand in size.”* As you likely recall, the Stamford Bombers were granted temporary sanctioned status for one year at a Special Meeting of the Commission on March 6, 2024. We believe we are the only entity that currently has this status.

While we were fully aware that we would be required to appear before the Commission in the future to request full approval, at no point have we been informed that we would not be allowed to expand the size of our organization. We have grown in size since March 2024 and continue to receive inquiries from Stamford families interested in playing for the Bombers.

We understand the Commission is not required to speak with all impacted parties, however, we believe it would make for a more equitable and thorough process if we had been asked to address this issue for several reasons.

First, the presence of travel baseball in Stamford for children younger than 12 years old is a relatively new development. As background, there are currently two Stamford-based entities that offer travel baseball to this age group, the Bombers and Stamford Travel Baseball, which is part of Stamford Babe Ruth. Both entities encourage their players to play for Stamford Little League in the spring and summer (if chosen for All Stars).

There are a variety of constituencies who have an interest in seeing travel baseball succeed and it would be helpful to have a diversity of opinions on the matter be heard. During the meeting the Commission members referenced their conversations with sanctioned leagues (Babe Ruth, American Legion, and Little League) about the potential impact of the moratorium, however, at no point has anyone from the Commission contacted the Bombers even though there is language in the policy that directly impacts our organization.

Next, there was no discussion by the Commission of the reasoning for including this language in the policy. Accordingly, we are unaware why it was necessary to include this limitation in the proposed policy.

Thirdly, we believe the limitation on expansion does not benefit the residents of Stamford. As previously mentioned, the Bombers, since our inception, have continued to add teams as more families have become familiar with our program. Since obtaining temporary sanctioned status, we have added new teams in the spring and for this fall. We have also started a weekly clinic for younger players (8u) who will spend the fall and winter practicing and developing their skills with Bombers coaches before forming teams and playing games in the spring of 2025, as a supplement to the players' participation in Little League. These teams and clinic participants consist of Stamford families hoping to continue playing for the Bombers in future seasons. The increase in interest and growth of the Bombers demonstrates that Stamford families are interested in having options for where their children play travel baseball. The language in the moratorium policy would eliminate their ability to choose which program best suits their family.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you wish, we are readily available to discuss this issue in further detail.

Regards,
Carlton Thompson