

From: Shellmularz <shellmularz@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 2:23 PM

To: Keri O'Brien <kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>; City Clerk External E-Mail <clerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tonight's Park & Rec Advisory Meeting public comments

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To whom it May Concern,

Please include the following public comment for the record at tonight's Parks & Recreation Board meeting regarding item #5 field use agreements and potential fees:

As a parent, youth sports volunteer, and active member of our community, I am writing to express deep concern about the proposal to charge for trainers, coaches, and sports teams using City of Key West fields. While I understand the intent to regulate commercial use of public space, this approach risks creating unintended consequences that will hurt the very families these programs aim to serve.

In a small, rural, and geographically isolated community like Key West, youth sports are more than extracurricular, they are vital lifelines for our children's physical, emotional, and social development. With limited opportunities for structured activities, families rely heavily on the dedication of local coaches and trainers who fill the gaps with affordable, community-centered options.

If trainers and club teams are forced to absorb substantial field rental fees, those costs will inevitably be passed on to families. This will disproportionately impact working-class residents, many of whom are already struggling under extremely high cost of living. In effect, this policy could make sports participation unattainable for the very youth who need it most.

I urge the Board to consider alternative solutions that balance fiscal responsibility with accessibility and equity.

Let's not allow well-intentioned regulation to unintentionally price out children from safe, healthy, and enriching activities. Our kids deserve better.

Respectfully,

Michelle Leonard-Mularz

Key West Resident, Parent &

Youth Sports Volunteer