

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-137

CITY HALL: April 22, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBER BROSSETT

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS, Youth participation in sports has a demonstrated positive impact on their development. Statistics show that high school athletes are more likely to attend and graduate college than non-athletes. Additionally, New Orleans has a proud history of producing national athletic stars; and

WHEREAS, There is a demonstrated need for additional sporting venues in the City of New Orleans for middle and high school sports. Currently, only two stadiums with capacity in excess of 2,500 seats are available for use on the east bank of New Orleans, Pan-American Stadium and Tad Gormley Stadium, both located in City Park; and

WHEREAS, There is ample space and community commitment to constructing a state of the art 4,000-5,000 seat stadium in the 9th Ward next to George Washington Carver High School on land owned by New Orleans Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, The 9th Ward Stadium Complex will serve not just Carver High School but the entire City of New Orleans public school system, with special emphasis on the more eastern parts of the city; and

WHEREAS, the 9th Ward Stadium will accommodate a range of sporting events from football and soccer to track and field with an artificial turf football field and an eight-lane track. For attendees there will be grandstand seating plus a press box and scoreboard, restrooms, concessions and ticketing, parking and site amenities; and

WHEREAS, Once the total project funds are raised, the facility will be under the governance of New Orleans Public Schools (NOPS) with input from the community and also those involved in providing the funding. NOPS will be executing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the local non-profit, 9th Ward Stadium Inc., to allow the non-profit to fundraise for the project; and

WHEREAS, 9th Ward Stadium Inc, will be a 501c3 and has as its original incorporators eight local community leaders who believe passionately in the new project: Arnie Fielkow, Ann Duplessis, Stacy Martin, Roy A. Glapion, Deuce McAllister, Bobby Garon, Mark Ripple and Wilbert Thomas Sr.; and

WHEREAS, the \$5 million stadium project necessitates a \$1.45 million investment from State Capital Outlay funding, which is currently part of the Capital Outlay request for the 2022 state fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, 9th Ward Stadium Inc is committed to fundraising the remaining \$3.55 million in funding from private donations which will be deposited in a local banking institution. All donations received and funds disbursed will be tracked in an open and transparent process; and

WHEREAS, The 9th Ward Stadium project is an opportunity to invest in our children and our communities still struggling to recover from Hurricane Katrina and will serve as an economic catalyst for the entire 9th Ward and the City of New Orleans; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council expresses it's full support for the construction of a new stadium and sports complex in the 9th Ward adjacent to George Washington Carver High School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Legislature is urged to allocate State Capital Outlay funding for the 9th Ward Stadium Complex.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, THE RESULT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.