

MOTION

Despite the growth in women's sports, a significant disparity in opportunities remains. Data from the National Federation of State High School Associations shows that there are still 1.3 million fewer school sports participation opportunities for girls compared to boys. The benefits of sports extend beyond the field, as research shows that girls and women who participate in sports have higher levels of confidence and self-esteem and lower levels of depression. Furthermore, research shows that engaging in as little as four hours of weekly exercise may reduce a teenage girl's risk of breast cancer by up to 60 percent, a disease that affects one out of every eight American women.

Title IX, a federal law enacted by Congress on June 23, 1972, mandates gender equity across all federally-funded educational programs, from preschool through university level, including athletic programming. In addition to this federal requirement, some states, like California, have adopted additional gender equity regulations in community/park and recreation-based sports. Signed into law in 2004, AB 2402 mandates that girls be given equal opportunities to participate in community youth athletic programs, both in quality and scope.

In 2016 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a motion establishing the Los Angeles County Women and Girls Initiative (WGI). The WGI was tasked with examining the systemic issues that lead to inequitable gender outcomes and recommending changes to improve the quality of life for women and girls in the County. Between 2016 to 2024, the WGI worked to advance gender equity by applying an intersectional gender lens across the County's roles as an employer, service provider, and partner. Given that the skills women and girls acquire through sports participation are vital for their future success in higher education and employment, the City must apply the same standard of accountability to its park system to ensure true gender equity in its athletic programming.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Recreation and Parks to report with a detailed breakdown of investment in boys' sports compared to girls' sports, the number of contracted sports organizations catering to boys versus those catering to girls, and an overview of the formal process for groups to apply for and secure field space, with a specific focus on addressing the "waitlist" system.

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