

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR MILLER-WILLIAMS**

RE: Supporting Acquisition/Renovation of the Former Fosdick Field at City Honors as an All-Weather Field/Public Park

WHEREAS, the land that houses the City Honors School has a rich historic background, this area is also marked as one of the highest points in the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1800's the land was used as burial grounds called the "Potters Field", in 1885 the City hired renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to convert the land into a picturesque public park named "Masten Place" overlooking the City; and

WHEREAS, in 1897 Masten Park High School opened on the site under the leadership of Frank 'Pop' Fosdick, the school was renamed Fosdick-Masten Park High School in 1927 in honor of the heroic efforts of Mr. Fosdick during a 1912 fire that destroyed the original building. The park was also referred to as "Fosdick Field" in honor of Mr. Fosdick's tenure as principal from 1897 to 1926; and

WHEREAS, from its inception, the frontage of the school building (west facade) included a large rolling lawn that eventually worked its way down to Michigan Avenue, modifications to the grade of the land over the decades and installation of bleachers in the hill overlooking the land resulted in the green space being used for physical education, practices, recreation and athletic contests; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Fosdick Field was eliminated when it was acquired by the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA), the "Woodson Gardens" housing complex was constructed on the site. The City also constructed Fosdick Street which resulted in the campus being cut in half; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority began the process of phasing out "Woodson Gardens" in 2009, City Honors/Fosdick-Masten Park Foundation formed the Fosdick Field Restoration Committee led by City Honors

principal Dr. William Kresse to generate a plan to acquire the land and restore the field. The Fosdick Field Restoration Project would restore the field as part of the school's campus for athletic use and as green space for the community. The plan will also remove Fosdick Street to allow students safe access the field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature goes on record supporting the acquisition and renovation of the former Fosdick Field by City Honors to an all-weather athletic field and public park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body encourage the BMHA and City Honors to work together to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to restore Fosdick Field as athletic facilities for City Honors students and green space for members of the surrounding neighborhoods; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Congressman Brian Higgins, Buffalo Public School Board and Administration, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority Administration and to Mr. William Kresse, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the Fosdick Field Restoration Project Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for this resolution.