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; 02/12/18 2:40 PM
;;;;BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
;;;;02/12/2018
>> I'M THE DISTRICT SIX CITY
COUNCIL AND CHAIR ON ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABILITY AND MARKS.
I'M JOINED BOY COUNCILOR LYDIA
EDWARDS WHO REPRESENTS DISTRICT
ONE, PRIMARILY THE NEIGHBORHOOD
OF EAST BOSTON, THE NORTH END
CHARLESTOWN A LITTLE BIT OF
DOWNTOWN?
NO.
YOU'VE GOT THREE WONDERFUL
NEIGHBORHOODS THERE.
>> I DO.
>> WE ARE HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS
DOCKET NUMBER 0137.
IN ORDER TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND
THE COMMONWEALTH -- EXCUSE ME,
IN ORDER TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION
SERVICES PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS
AND RENOVATIONS FOR COMMUNITY'S
PROGRAM GRANT OF $400,000 FOR
THE NOYES PLAYGROUND.
THIS MATTER IS SPONSORED FI
MAYOR WALSH AND REFERRED TO THE
COMMITTEE.
IT'S A WONDERFUL NEIGHBORHOOD OF
EAST BOSTON.
I AM ENCOURAGED TO SEE ALL
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC
PARKS FOR OUR OVER 300 PARKS IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON.
ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER OF 1909,
NOYES PLAYGROUND LOCATED AT AND
AROUND 86 BOARDMAN STREET IS ONE
OF THE LARGEST PLAYGROUND IN
BOSTON AT 6.2 ACRES.
SOFTBALL FIELD, TOP LOT AND
BASKETBALL COURT.
THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE
FUNDING THE TOTAL OF $6,385,785
IN GRANT FUNDING FROM PARKS AND
RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS IN
MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES.
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THE PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS FOR

RENOVATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES PARC OR PARC GRANT PROGRAM IS FUNDED THROUGH THE STATE'S CAPITAL BUDGET.

WE'RE JOINED TODAY BY TWO TREMENDOUS PUBLIC SERVANTS. OUR PARK COMMISSIONER CHRIS COOK AND THE SENIOR PLANNER OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OPENING REMARKS, COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY AND IT IS A BIG DEAL FOR US THAT NOYES PARK IS ACTUALLY REDONE AND WE HAVE THE REAL INVESTMENT FROM THE STATE BEHIND US AND OF COURSE THE CITY OF BOSTON.

FOR A LOT OF FOLKS, THIS IS A LONG TIME COMING.

WE HAD HOPED THIS YEAR WAS THE FULL YEAR WE WERE PUTTING THE SHOVEL IN THE DIRT AND THAT PARKS ARE OF COURSE A HUGE DEAL TO A LOT OF THE GENERATIONS IN EAST BOSTONIANS.

I'M SURE MY, WE'LL HAVE SOME PEOPLE TESTIFYING ABOUT SOME OBJECTIONS OR ADDITION THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

I DO APPRECIATE THE BALANCING OF MANY INTERESTS THAT CAME TO YOU WITH SOFTBALL, BASEBALL AND OF COURSE WITH SOCCER.

SO I APPRECIATE WITH THAT, THAT YOU BALANCE WITH INTEREST.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR EDWARDS.
FINALLY A QUICK HOUSEKEEPING
NOTE THIS HEARING IS BEING
TELEVISED AND STREAMED ON-LINE.
IF ANY SIDES HERE WOULD LIKE TO
TESTIFY THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS
TO THE BACK LEFT OF THE CHAMBER,
PLEASE SIGN IN AND WE'LL STAY AS
LONG AS EVERYONE WISHES TO SPEAK
WE WILL STAY AND MAKE SURE THEY
ARE HEARD.

GENTLEMEN, WELCOME.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OPENING REMARKS. >> HE'LL BE VERY BRIEF COURTROOM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY AND THEN I'LL TURN IT OVER TO OUR SENIOR PLANNER

FOR THE DETAILS OF THE GRANT.
BUT AS COMMISSIONER OF BOSTON
PARKS I JUST WANT TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY AS I DO WITH MOST
PUBLIC SETTINGS TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE HARD WORKING MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE BOSTON BARKS AND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO CAKE
CARE OF OUR 2600 ACRES THAT
WE'RE HONORED TO MAINTAIN TO THE
BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

BUT I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE TODAY THE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP AT THE LEVEL OF MAYOR MARTY WALSH AND THE YEARS FOR CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR BOSTON PARKS.

THE REASON I THINK THE

COMMONWEALTH DEEMED THIS
PARAGRAPH WORTHY OF INVESTMENT
IS BECAUSE IT WAS BY A LARGE
CAPITAL LINE ITEM FROM THE CITY.
SO WITHOUT THE CITY'S LEADERSHIP
OF OVER \$3 MILLION IT MAY NOT
HAVE BEEN AS ENTICING FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH TO INVEST IN THE

WE'RE GRATEFUL TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS THAT ARE PARTNERS AND STEWARD SHINE OF OPEN SPACES.

PARK AS WELL.

NOISE IS A VERY VERY WORTHY PARK TO MAKE SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY VENT IN AND WE'RE ALSO EAGERLY ANTICIPATING CONSTRUCTION AS IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE PROJECT WILL BEGIN IN MARCH, CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IN MAY AND WE'LL HAVE A RIBBON CUTTING BEFORE THE 2019 LILT LEAGUE SEASON.

WE'RE VERY EXCITED TO RECEIVE THESE FUNDS.

WE ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO ALLOW US TO RECEIVE THESE FUNDS AND WE'RE EXCITED TO GET STARTED ON THE PROJECT.

WITH THAT, I'LL GIVE THE DETAILS OF THE GRANT TO OUR SENIOR PLANNER.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

>> THANKS SO MUCH.

LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN END OF EAST BOSTON.

IT'S THE SECOND LARGEST PARK IN EAST BOSTON, EAST MEMORIAL ANNUAL PARK IS LARGER BY THE AIRPORT.

MARKS HAVE ACTIVE FEATURES ARE MORE IN THE EASTERN SECTION. THIS PROVIDES KEY RESOURCE FOR RECREATION -- NORTHERN OWNED OF EAST BOSTON.

WE DO HAVE SOME -- PROVIDES A BIT OF OBSTACLE FOR PEOPLE TO GET IT PLUS IT HAS THE KIND OF SEASONAL CHARACTER, A GREAT RESOURCE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD. SO WE ARE APPLYING FOR THE MAXIMUM GRANT, \$400,000 FOR THE NORTH PLAYGROUND.

THAT HAS TO ADD ANOTHER
BASKETBALL COURT OR -- AREA.
WE'RE GOING TO BE ADDING
APPROXIMATELY GETTING THROUGH
THE TREES TO A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT
DOES NOT HAVE A LOT OF TREE
CANVASS AND WE'LL ALSO BE
PUTTING IN RAIN GUTTERS.

WE'LL BE PUTTING IN INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE THAT WILL INDICATE, TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE AREA -- PARKLAND.

AND THEN TALK ABOUT THE SPORTS LIGHTING, HELP REDUCE ENERGY AND CARBON EMISSIONS AND WHAT WE CAN OFFER TO TRY TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND -- EXTREME FLOODING EVENTS THAT EAST BOSTON WILL BE EXPERIENCING IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

THAT'S REALLY I GOT TO SAY ABOUT IT.

IT'S A GREAT PROJECT -PARTICIPATING AND I THINK IT
WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ASSET TO
THE COMMUNITY.

>> THANK YOU.

WELL, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT I LOVE.

SPORTS, PARKS AND LOWERING OUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SO YOU WERE TABLE TO TOUCH UPON ALL THREE.

I HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS.
CHRIS I THINK YOU TOOK THE FIRST ONE.

THE TIME LINE IS AS FOLLOWS PUT

OUT TO BID NEXT MONTH AND THEN THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IN MAY THAT QUICKLY YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO TURN IT AROUND THAT QUICKLY.

>> WE WILL.

WE THINK THAT IS A VERY EXCITING PROJECT FOR A CONTRACTOR.

THEY WILL BE EXCITED BIT.

>> FANTASTIC.

THEN DONE BY APRIL OF 19, DO YOU THINK.

>> UH-HUH.

>> THE CITY PUT IN \$3 MILLION IN THEIR CAPITAL BUDGET.

>> A LITTLE OVER THREE, YES, INCLUDING DESIGN.

>> AND THIS IS 400,000 SO THIS LITERALLY OR IS SHOVEL READY.

>> IT IS, YES.

>> FANTASTIC.

WE'LL TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE COMMUNITY'S INPUT TO THE PROCESS UP UNTIL THIS POINT IF YOU WOULD.

>> YES.

SO WE WENT THROUGH OUR OUR NORMAL PROCESS OF THREE COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

THEY WERE WELL ATTENDED AS MOST OPEN SPACE MEETINGS IN EAST BOSTON ARE.

I WILL SAY THAT COUNCILOR EDWARDS DID A GOOD JOB OF MENTIONING THIS BEFORE.

THERE WAS A REAL CHALLENGE AND ACCOMMODATING SOFTBALL, BASEBALL AND SOCCER.

THE REASON FOR THAT IS NOT THAT WE'VE ADDED MORE SOCCER FIELDS IN EAST BOSTON BUT WE COULD ACTUALLY ADD TEN MORE SOCCER FIELDS IN EAST BOSTON.

I THINK IT WOULD BE HARD FOR US TO KEEP UP WITH THE POPULARITY OF THE SPORT.

SO THIS WAS A SENSE FROM THE LITTLE LEAGUE USERS.

THERE WAS A SENSE FROM SOME OF THE SOFTBALL USERS THAT A LOT OF THE OPEN SPACE IN EAST BOSTON WAS ALREADY BEING USED FOR SOCCER.

SO IT WAS UNIMAGINABLE TO US TO

HAVE AN OPEN SPACE AND NOT
ACCOMMODATE THE SOCCER FIELD BUT
WE WANT TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THE
OTHER EXISTING USES, SOFT TBAWL -SOFTBALL AND LITTLE LEAGUE.
WE CAME UP WITH THE SCENE IN
FRONT OF YOU WHERE WE HAVE A
FLEXIBLE COMPONENT TO THE PARK.
SO THERE IS ONE SYNTHETIC FIELD
IN THE PARK IN THE DESIGN AND
THAT WILL GIVE US THE
FLEXIBILITY OF HAVING SOCCER IN
THE OFF SEASON AND PROTECTED
THROUGH PERMITTING SOFTBALL
ACCOMMODATED.

BUT WITH THE COMMUNITY CENTER SO NEAR BY, I THINK THE IDEA OF HAVING A FLEXIBLE SPACE ALSO OPENS UP THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LA CROSSE AND OPPORTUNITIES UP THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FLAG FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTS THAT PEOPLE MAY BE INTERESTED IN AND WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TURF DAMAGE IN THE OFF SEASON.

THE ONE THING I'M EXCITED ABOUT AND I THINK WEOFF SET THIS WITH CAN THE REIGN GARDEN WE'RE HAVING FOUR RAIN GARDEN TO ACCOMMODATE THE STORM WATERS. THE FIELDS WILL BE IRRIGATED. WHAT THAT MAINS IS THE CURRENT CONDITIONS THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO PLAY IN AT NO YES, SIR RIGHT NOW -- AT NOYES RIGHT NOW. WITH THE IRRIGATION THEY ARE GOING TO GET A LEVEL OF CONSISTENCY IN THE QUALITY OF THE TUIVE.

AND I THINK YOU KNOW THE EXPOSURE TO POTENTIAL INJURIES, THE IDEA THAT THE GRASS IS GOING TO GET BURNT OUT AFTER SUCH A HUGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT THOSE WILL ALL BE LIMITED BY THE PRESENCE OF IRRIGATION.

IT'S A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT IN A PARK THAT HAD NOT RECEIVED ONE IN A VERY VERY LONG TIME.

>> FANTASTIC.

AND SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME OF THE COLLECTING OF THE STORMWATER, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE

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OVERHEAD LIGHTS FOR THE GAMES.
AND ONE THING WE'VE BEEN WORKING
ON IS WATER FILLING STATIONS FOR
LESS USE OF PLASTIC BOTTLE.
>> I CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR
KNOWING THIS INFORMATION
ALTHOUGH VERY WISELY BEFORE THIS
HEARING I WAS INFORMED THERE
WILL BE TWO ON SITE.
>> TYPICAL BUBBLERS AND ALSO A

PLACE FOR A YOUNG PERSON.

>> EACH ONE OF THE STATIONS HAVE BOTH.

BOTH THE FILLER AND THE BUBBLER AT THE SAME TIME.

ONE WILL BE LOCATED NEAR THE PLAYGROUND BASKETBALL COURTS AND ONE NEAR THE FIELDS.

>> CAN I REQUEST AS I DO FOR ALL PROJECTS OF THIS SIZE, A SUN SCREEN DISPENSER FOR OUR PARTNERS ATMEL NO MA IMPACT OF NEW ENGLAND.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

WE CAN ACTUALLY ACCOMMODATE IT HERE COUNCILOR AND WE'LL CREATE A PART SHINE FOR THE BOSS TER YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTERS THAT ARE CLOSE BY.

WE DON'T LIKE PUTTING IN UNLESS WE HAVE ADDITIONAL STAFF NEARBY TO MONITOR THE CONDITIONS.

WE'LL REACH OUT TO MAKE SURE WE GET ONE INSTALLED.

>> FANTASTIC.

THANK YOU BOTH.

COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> I JUST WANTED TO ALSO, I
REALLY APPRECIATED YOU
MENTIONING THE POTENTIAL FOR
GROWTH HERE AT THIS PARK.
I THINK THAT'S ONE OF THE BEST
THINGS BIT ACTUALLY IS THE
PARTNERSHIP I THINK IT'S WITH
THE MARTY PINO CENTER COULD LEAD
TO MORE SPORTS AND MORE
OPPORTUNITIES.

AND ALSO BEING A LITTLE BIT MORE CREATIVE WITH HOW WE'RE GOING TO USE ALL OF OUR SPACES, BECOMING MORE AND MORE CREATIVE.

I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.

I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO HIGHER VERY SOON FROM SOMEBODY WHO WANTS TO TESTIFY ABOUT SUPPORTING AND HELP AND ALSO FILED SOME ROOM FOR RACKETBALL. >> THANK YOU.

I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS.

GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY IF YOU COULD.

WE HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

JUST TO HEAR SOME FEEDBACK.

- >> YES, SURE.
- >> YOU CAN JOIN THE AUDIENCE.
- >> YES, THANK YOU.
- >> IS MR. BOLD ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO IS GOING TO TESTIFY.
 HE HAS WRITTEN TESTIMONY HE
 WANTS TO READ BUT IF YOU WANT TO
 JOIN US, IF YOU WANT TO SIT AT

THAT TABLE. THANK YOU.

- >> THANK YOU.
- >> YOU CAN EVEN STAY SEATED THERE.

WE'RE INFORMAL.

WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PARKS COMMITTEE.

JUST GRAB A SEAT ANYWHERE YOU WISH.

THANK YOU.

>> MY NAME IS JIM BOLD.

I'M THE MASSACHUSETTS DIRECTOR FOR WORLD OUTDOOR RACK OTHER BALL.

I HAVE BEEN FOR ABOUT SERVE YEARS NOW.

I'VE BEEN THE RACK OTHER BALL PADDLE BALL HAND FALL SINCE 19 0.

BASICALLY WHAT I WANT TO PRESENT IS THAT OUTDOOR HANDBALL, ROCKET BALL AND PASS BALL.

THIS IS WHAT A CURRENT PADDLE LOOKS LIKE AND RACKET AND HAND FOR HANDBALL.

THESE ARE HAND BALLS BEING USED NOW IS GROWING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

AND MOST STATES HAVE HUNDREDS IF THAT THOUSANDS OF COURTS. FLORIDA HAS ABOUT 6,000, NEW YORK HAS ABOUT 2,000.

THEY HAVE THESE COMPLEXES WITHIN THE INNER CITY.

ORCHARD BEACH FOR EXAMPLE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE BRONX HAS A 24-OUARTER FACILITY.

WHAT IT DOES IS GIVING KIDS AND ADULTS AN OUTLET BASICALLY TO SPEND THEIR TIME ON.

QUITE A FEW KIDS THAT HAVE GONE DOWN CERTAIN ROADS HAVE BECOME REALLY ADDICTED TO HANDBALL, RACKETBALL, PADDLE BALL.

IT'S GOTTEN THEM IN A HEALTH CONSCIOUS MODE.

MASSACHUSETTS IS LACKING IN MANY WAYS.

LITERALLY ALL YOU NEED IS A CEMENT WALL.

I'VE GOT A DRAWING HERE.

IF WE TOOK A SPACE WITH A

HUNDRED FOOT SQUARE, YOU COULD

ADD SIX COURTS,

PROFESSIONAL-GRADE COURTS WITHIN A HUNDRED FOOT SQUARE WHICH IS PROBABLY SMALLER THAN THIS ROOM. IT'S REALLY JUST CONCRETE AND A CONCRETE BALL THAT'S 16 FEET HIGH.

I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN DESIGNING CONSTRUCTION IN OTHER LOCATIONS. AND REALLY JUST AM PUTTING THIS FORTH THAT WHETHER IT CAN POSSIBLY BE ADDED HERE OR IN ANY OTHER PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS IN THE FUTURE IN BOSTON IS REALLY WHY I'M HERE.

I WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER MY HELP, SERVICES.

MY BACKGROUND, I WAS DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING IN SOME MAJOR HOSPITALS IN BOSTON AND HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH BUILDING GROUNDS AND CONSTRUCTIONS.

SO REALLY THAT'S ALL I WANT TO PRESENT WAS IF IN ANY WAY THIS MIGHT MAKE ITS WAY INTO THE FUTURE IN SOME OF THE PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS IN BOSTON.

>> I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THAT PRESENTATION AND ALSO JUST NOTING THAT THERE'S A

FOR THAT PRESENTATION AND ALSO JUST NOTING THAT THERE'S A WONDERFUL PROGRAM I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE HEARD OF SQUASH BUSTERS, RIGHT, AS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HOW THE FAMILY OF HANDBALL, RACKETBALL THERE'S ALREADY PROVEN RECORD OF GETTING KIDS INVOLVED, GETTING THEM ON FAST TRACKS OR TRACKS TO COLLEGE.

THIS IS SOMETHING I REALLY WOULD LOVE TO SEE IF IT'S A POSSIBILITY.

AGAIN YOU JUST NEED THE BACK OF THE BASKETBALL COURT ONE OF THE SIDES OF IT LITERALLY JUST BEING SEEMED.

SO THEY CAN HAVE ALSO A HUNDRED SQUARE FEET AN IT.

IT'S MOBILE.

SO I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER IT. >> MY CONTACT INFO IS IN HERE. MAYBE WE COULD SPEAK IN THE FEW. >> HORACE MANN.

ANYTHING WE CAN TO GET MORE PEOPLE OUT AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OPEN SPACE FOR SPORTS OR EVEN JUST ORGANIC SPORTS MAKES SENSE.

WHILE WE HAVE YOU HERE, THERE ANY MOVEMENT TO PUT HANDBALL RACKETBALL AND SQUASH COURTS. >> THERE ISN'T.

I HAVE TO CHECK BACK TO THE COMMUNITY PROCESS BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE'S NOT. IF THE BIDS COME IN LOW THAT THERE'S ALWAYS POTENTIAL TO ADD ALTERNATES IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE COURTS HAVE FUTURE DESIGN BUT I MEAN THERE'S, I WOULDN'T LIMIT THE REQUEST TO -- IT'S A MUCH BROADER CANVAS.

>> I THINK JIM IS SAYING THAT AS WELL.

>> I WILL SAY HISTORICALLY IT'S NOT A SPORT THAT WE'VE ACCOMMODATED WITH OUTDOOR FACILITIES AND I THINK THAT WOULD BE A CHANGE IN OUR MIND SET AND ONE THAT WOULD BE WELCOME.

>> TERRIFIC.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU.

>> I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE ELSE IS LOOKING TO TESTIFY UNLESS

ANYONE WOULD WISH TO TESTIFY, YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO DO SO T OKAY.

HEARING NONE.

I WILL BE REPORTING OUT A FAVORABLE VOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY AT OUR COUNCIL MEETING URGING QUICK ACTION.

AND I'LL CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THIS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

WONDERFUL WORK.

CONGRATULATIONS, COUNCILOR
EDWARDS AND FORMER COUNCILOR
LAMATTINA FELT VERY STRONGLY
ABOUT MAKING SURE THIS PROJECT
WAS SEEN TO FRUITION.
IT'S BEEN LEFT IN VERY GOOD
HANDS WITH YOUR GREATER
LEADERSHIP AND I LOOK FORWARD TO
COMING OVER AND VISITING MY
FRIENDS IN EAST BOSTON NEXT
APRIL AND SEEING YOU AT THE
PARK.

SO HEARING NO OTHER TESTIMONY, THIS HEARING IS HEREBY ADJOURNED.