



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Reginald Goodson, City Manager
Stacy Williams, Interim Parks and Recreation Director

Date: February 21, 2025

Subj: Consideration-Authorization to Enter a Facility Use and Lease Agreement With MACU for Holmes Field

BACKGROUND:

Holmes Field serves as a viable baseball field for the Parks and Recreation Department. This field is the only field established to support middle school, high school, and collegiate competition. The Parks and Recreation Grounds Maintenance Division initiated repairs to the field to improve drainage, turf and overall field playability. In the past, Holmes Field has supported home games and practices for our local universities' baseball programs. Over the past few years, Mid-Atlantic Christian University (MACU) has called Holmes Field "home" for their baseball games and practices. While this initially began without any written agreement to specify responsibilities, rules, and accountability, both entities worked together to draft a lease agreement for usage beginning in 2022.

ANALYSIS

The MACU men's baseball team will be utilizing Holmes Field during the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 college years. There has been no written agreement signed since the 2022/2023 college year. There is a need to continue utilizing this type of agreement to provide a clear understanding of the responsibilities of both parties. The facility and lease agreement outlines liability, guidelines and field rules, upkeep, financial responsibilities, and scheduled times of usage. MACU have been good stewards while using Holmes Field, and Parks and Recreation wants to ensure that the City, County, and our partners continue to operate at optimal capacity with minimal safety and risk factors. The agreement allows both parties to work together with clear expectations and guidelines.

The agreements that are attached for the aforementioned years are identical to the agreement authorized by the City Council and executed in 2022, save for the modified dates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a Facility Use and Lease Agreement with Mid-Atlantic Christian University for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 college years.