



# MEMORANDUM

---

**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Montre' Freeman, City Manager  
Sean Clark, Parks and Recreation Director

**Date:** February 9, 2024

**Re:** Update - Elizabeth Street Tennis Courts – Resurfacing and Pickle Ball Court Installation

---

## ***BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:***

Elizabeth Street tennis courts are located on the corner of Elizabeth Street and Harney Street. These are one of two sets of tennis courts maintained by the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department. Although there are residents who utilize the courts for tennis, usage at the Elizabeth Street courts have diminished over the past several years. Within the past few years, pickle ball participation has increased significantly. Pickle ball is a game resembling tennis played indoors or outdoors on a level court with short-handled paddles and a perforated plastic ball volleyed over a low net by two players or pairs of players.

The community has expressed the need for accessibility to outdoor play. In 2021, pickle ball lines were painted on three of the four tennis courts to provide for outdoor play on a level surface. Although this served as a cost effective and temporary solution for community demand, court dimensions have stalled growth. During a Fall 2023 community meeting, approximately 30 citizens provided insight on what would be considered ideal for leisure and/or competitive pickle ball play.

Last Fiscal Year 22/23, Sentara provided Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation with grant funds in the amount of \$30,000 to assist with the funding of pickle ball courts. Official estimates for the resurfacing of our Elizabeth Street tennis courts ranged from \$60,000 to \$118,000. The specifications would include the resurfacing and netting of two tennis courts and six pickle ball courts with a fence for separation on the existing surface. In December 2023, we were notified that our application for grant funding was unsuccessful. Parks and Recreation is looking to secure additional funding through pickle ball donations and sponsorship initiatives. A contractor will be acquired within the next 45 days and court completion is estimated to be finalized by late spring 2024.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

No action requested. Item is for information only.