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From: Ricky Barrett <[ric.barrett@yahoo.com](mailto:ric.barrett@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 2:43 PM

To: Public Testimony <[PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov](mailto:PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov)>

Subject: New Haven Youth Sports

Hello,

I am not sure if I am going to make it due to prior obligations at 6pm on March 11th.

As a kid who grew up and completed all my formal education in New Haven (Beecher, Betsy Ross, Hillhouse and SCSU), it is important that we bring back these resources and enhance the current ones we have. I was afforded the opportunity to play in programs such as Camp 2000, Farnham House Bidy Basketball, New Haven Steelers, Westville Soccer, NewHallville Huskies, Values to Victory Football camp, Connecticut Shootout Basketball Camp and more. Sports have served as an integral part of my life. It has shaped my thoughts on emotions around despair and my humble approach in success. New Haven produced STARS. We have current professional athletes whose foundation started with youth sports in our city. So much so, that other cities poach our kids because we dont have the infrastructure internally to assist our kids once they hit a certain level. Our youth sports programs help develop our kids with the love and discipline of learning the basics but not enough to fine tune their skills.

Our lives are based on discipline and how we react when things don't go our way. Sports can serve as the foundation of many intangible values for growth in live. As an athlete, you practice, way more than you play. You're taught to be physically strong while being mentally astute.

I would love to assist in helping New Haven restructure its approach on athletics.

Ricky Barrett, MS.Ed