

3/1/2026

RE: SB883 & HB1078: Against Soccer Stadium Replaces Golf Course in Carroll Park - \$216,600,000

Good Afternoon, My name is Scott Kashnow and I live in West Baltimore.

Both of my children play soccer a lot. They are each in two leagues right now. Just this past weekend our family played two games and refed 3. Most weekends in the fall, winter, and spring, we are busy playing soccer.

Here is what I would like to share with you today.

On April 18, **2024** Malik Robertson with DC United received my contact information from Councilwoman Porter's office and - emailed to ask if he could be added to the agenda of the next Friends of Carroll Park meeting - May 1, 2024

On May 1, **2024** Danita Johnson and Jason Levian of DC United Attended the Friends of Carroll Park meeting:

They told us they want to bring soccer to Baltimore. They want to be a good partner with the community and they want to teach and encourage youth participation in soccer. They told us that Carroll Park is one possible option. They told us that they were directed to the golf course and that "nothing is final". They said they are open to other options, public or private.

We told them we are very interested in encouraging more sports programming. We have been building programs, ourselves, for many years, and would love to see more opportunities for the youth.

We told them that the golf course is very important to the community. It is a loved amenity, It is historic and it was the first golf course in Baltimore that was integrated. This was just commemorated with a marker and a plaque by the Pitch and Putt Golf Club.

The golf course is also a natural buffer up against the Gwynns Falls Stream and Gwynns Falls Trail both of which are also very important to our community.

We were very clear with them as I will be with you. **We would love to see soccer come to Baltimore but it can not replace the Carroll Park Golf Course.**

They indicated they understood our position and promised to stay in touch and come back when there was more to tell. They said "this is just the start of the conversation." We have not heard from them since.

On October 15, **2025** Casey O'Neill (the President of the Citizens of Pigtown) followed up with Councilwoman Porter because of an article she saw regarding Carroll Park still being considered as a site for the soccer stadium. The Councilwoman responded that the stadium was not moving forward at this location.

This remained our understanding until SB883 was introduced this session just a few days ago.

On February 28, **2026** Senator Hayes convened Community Leaders and we shared the history above that he may not have been privy to prior.

We reminded him how important the Golf Course is to our community and he reiterated that the site is not yet selected and is still being studied. We left the meeting confident that the community has been heard clearly and that the golf course is now safe from potential destruction.

I am very active in my community. I am on the Board of:

Franklin Square Community Association (my neighborhood)

Baltimore Family Alliance

SouthwestPartnership - Secretary & Chair the Vibrant Streets Committee

Grow Home

Red Line CAT

Reconnecting Communities in West Baltimore Coalition

And

Friends of Carroll Park (board member since 2014)

I talk to a lot of people.

Not a single one is in favor of losing the Carroll Park Golf Course. Every one of them has said "there is no reason - there are plenty of other spots that would be great and we can have both!"

I implore you to amend this bill and **remove Carroll Park as an option**. It is not an option.

Scott Kashnow

Resident of West Baltimore