MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
   Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
      County Administrator

Re: Sporting Chance Indoor Youth Athletic Facility at Curtis Park

Approximately three years ago, the County undertook a cooperative public/private partnership with Southern Arizona Community Sports, Inc., a community nonprofit organization. In addition, for a number of years since the State of Arizona ceased funding for graduate medical education programs, the County has supplied funding to the State to support graduate medical education programs for community nonprofit teaching hospitals. The County has also been involved in a very extensive community health and wellness program designed to improve the overall health, wellness and fitness of the entire community.

One of our efforts at expanding County youth recreational capacity has been the sponsorship development of Sporting Chance. Our primary partners include both the Southern Arizona Community Sports, Inc., that now operates the facility on behalf of the County, and Tucson Medical Center (TMC), who provided the capital funding to construct the facility knowing the County continued to independently support the graduate medical education program which also benefited TMC, the region’s largest home-based community nonprofit hospital.

Sporting Chance has been a tremendous community success. The operators report the following:

1. The facility is currently attracting an average of 20,000 visitors a month, including athletes and spectators.
2. More than 1,500 different individuals participated in the Active Afternoon open play program, resulting in more than 10,000 total visits for the year. The Center provided more than 270 days, accumulating more than 1,400 hours of court time to this initiative. There is a notable group of 800-plus users representing the “05” neighborhood where the facility is located.
3. More than 88 different groups used the Center for team practices, leagues, programs, tournaments and other events. Activities represented include basketball, volleyball, futsal, dodge ball and Special Olympics.
4. The Center was open every day except the major holidays and the annual week of court maintenance.
5. 78 percent of participants are between the ages of 14 and 18.
Based on this success, the County will continue to promote, search for and implement those actions and activities that promote community health and wellness including youth development. Our investment in Sporting Chance has proven to be a successful and productive investment.

CHH/anc

c: Jan Lesher, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
    Donald Tringali, Executive Director, Southern Arizona Community Sports, Inc.
    Tom Carle, Operations Manager, Sporting Chance Center
    Judy Rich, RN, President and CEO, Tucson Medical Center
    Julia Strange, Vice President-Community Benefit, Tucson Medical Center