



# VAN HORN PARENTS ASSOCIATION MONUMENT

April 14, 2017

Dear Chairman Santaniello, and Members of the Springfield Park Commission:

I am writing you on behalf of the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee to formally request permission from the Park Commission and the City of Springfield to build and locate a monument honoring the Van Horn Parents Association at the main entrance to the Athletic Fields at Van Horn Park. We also are requesting that the Athletic Fields at Van Horn Park be renamed as the Van Horn Parents Association Athletic Fields in honor of the Van Horn Parents Association.

As you know - from your many years of public service - outstanding service to a Community, State or Nation is something that should never go unnoticed or without reward. So often - in the hectic day-to-day world in which we live - we do not have an opportunity to take the time to appropriately honor individuals, people or organization for the services they have rendered which contribute to the betterment of our Community, City, State and Nation.

During the decades of the 1950's to the 1980's - the dedication, devotion, commitment, community service and selfless contributions made to Youth Sports Programs by the Men and Women of the Van Horn Parents Association - made a tremendous positive difference in improving the lives of thousands of Children and Families on Hungry Hill and throughout the City of Springfield.

It is only fitting that the memory of the Van Horn Parents Association - the Parents, Coaches, Players, Friends, Supporters and Volunteers - and their outstanding, dedicated and distinguished service and accomplishments - be honored and remembered for posterity with an appropriate Monument to be built and erected at the Main Entrance to the Athletic Fields in Van Horn Park.

It is also appropriate - as we Honor The Van Horn Parents Association - that this Monument remember and Honor All The People involved with the Sports Teams of Our Lady of Hope Church, The Celtics and American Legion Post 430 which existed at Van Horn Park from the 1920's to the 1980's - before and during he years of the Van Horn Parents Association.

To achieve this goal of building a lasting monument - and raising the necessary private funds to pay for it - the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee was formed in January of this year. On January 27<sup>th</sup> of this year we met with Pat Sullivan - Executive Director of Parks, Buildings, Recreation and Management for the City of Springfield and received his enthusiastic support for the Monument Project - and on March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year we met with Mayor Dominic Sarno who also was very supportive and enthusiastic about this idea - and on April 1<sup>ST</sup> I met with Ward 2 Councilor and City Council President Michael Fenton - who is also enthusiastically supportive and at their suggestion and with their unanimous support - we write you today requesting the approval of the Springfield Park Commission for this great project / Monument proposal.

110 Pinecrest Drive • Springfield, MA 01118

Father Nune Reilly (413) 896-6253 • Marty Reilly (617) 872-9933 • Gary Bacchiocchi (413) 427-1186

THE VAN HORN PARENTS ASSOCIATION MONUMENT IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE HUNGRY HILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
A NONPROFIT, CHARITABLE 501C3 ORGANIZATION, TAX ID NUMBER 043216873

The Monument we envision building -will be the same size and same color of Gray Granite Material - as the existing John L. Sullivan Monument presently located on the left side of the Main Entrance to the Park. Ideally - we would like the Van Horn Monument to be located on the Right

Side of the Main Entrance to the Athletic Fields of Van Horn Park - as a " Stand Alone " Monument - so the Monuments would be a Mirror Image of one another - John L Sullivan to the left of the Roadway Entrance and The Van Horn Monument to the right of the Roadway Entrance - but our Committee is open to the best location to be determined by the Commission, Pat Sullivan and the Mayor following the review of the submission of the preliminary landscape design associated with the Monument. The Monument would also have a brick walkway connecting it to the existing sidewalks near the Roadway.

A rendering of the final proposed Van Horn Monument Design and the language and symbols inscribed thereon is attached hereto in a separate PDF for your review in preparation for our meeting with the Park Commission at your offices on Wednesday afternoon May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Specifically the Van Horn Parents Association Monument will consist of the following:

- The Monument Design will be cut in the Shape of a VH and made of Gray "Barre" Granite.
- The size of the Monument is 6 Feet High and 6 Feet wide and 8 Inches Thick - with a Base of 6 Feet 6 Inches which the Monument will sit on - the base is 14 Inches wide from front to back and is 8 Inches high ( Note : The same size as the John L Sullivan Monument - without the Curvature in the stone )
- There are symbols inscribed on both the left side column and the right side column of the Monument with a Hockey Rink located in the Middle of the Monument separating the language at the top from the language at the bottom. The symbols depict the various Sports and Sports Teams honored by the Monument

The language at the Top of the Monument will state:

- "In Honor Of The Men and Women Of The Van Horn Parents Association And All The Coaches, Players, Volunteers, And Friends Whose Dedicated Contributions To Youth Sports Made A Positive Impact On The Lives Of Children And Families Of HUNGRY HILL In The City Of Springfield From The 1950's To The 1980's"

The language at the Bottom of the Monument ( under the Rink ) will state:

- "This Monument Also Honors All The People Associated With The Sports Teams of Our Lady Of Hope Church, The Acorns, Blackstones, Celtics, And American Legion Post 430 Which Existed From The 1920's To The 1980's - Before And During The Years Of The Van Horn Parents Association "

Symbols on the Left Side Column of the Monument are:

- Hockey Sticks and Puck
- Football
- Gaelic Football
- Our Lady of Hope Church

Symbols on the Right Side Column of the Monument are:

- Baseball Bats and Ball
- Soccer Ball
- Basketball
- American Legion Post 430

Note: The Church on the left, and the American Legion on the right anchor the Monument, as they did our Hungry Hill Neighborhood, not only symbolizing Sports Teams, but the important role of Faith and Honoring our Veterans, as pillars of our Community on Hungry Hill and The City of Springfield.

The Van Horn Patents Association Monument Committee will be holding a Fundraiser on Friday June 16th, 2017 - from 6 PM To 10 PM at St. Anthony's Church - Cedars Banquet Hall located at 375 Island Pond Road in the City of Springfield - to raise the money needed to pay for this monument.

In addition to the Fundraiser on June 16, 2017 - the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee plans on selling 4 inch by 8 inch Fundraising Memorial Bricks to be sold for a price of \$100 per brick - to be placed around the Monument and on the adjacent sidewalks connecting / leading to the Monument and the existing sidewalk and Roadway.

All the costs associated with paying for the Monument, Bricks and Materials used. In construction will be paid for by private funds and donations raised by the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee through the June 16, 2017 Fundraiser; sale of Fundraising Bricks; Tee Shirts and Hats; donated Raffle Prizes; individual donations by former players, coaches, friends, supporters, volunteers and Members of the Greater Springfield Corporate / Business Community.

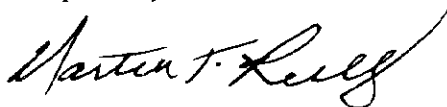
With the approval of The Park Commission - and expressed support for this project from Mayor Sarno and Pat Sullivan - Executive Director of Parks, Buildings, Recreation Management - for the City of Springfield - we plan on formally unveiling the installed and erected Monument In a Dedication Ceremony to take place at the Main Entrance to Van Horn Park on Saturday October 14th at 1:00 PM - followed by a Van Horn and Hungry Hill Reunion at the park from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

The Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee is a 501(c)3 Non Profit Tax Exempt Organization affiliated with and under the Hungry Hill Development Corporation ( Tax I D Number: 043216873 ) and all donations and contributions made to the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee are tax deductible.

On behalf of the Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee we respectfully request your approval of our request to build the Van Horn Parents Association Monument at the Main Entrance to Van Horn Park and also request that you rename and dedicate the name of the Athletic Fields in Van Horn Park in Honor of The Memory of the Van Horn Parents Association so this great organization can be appropriately remembered for posterity by this Monument in the City of Springfield.

Thank you for your time, thought and favorable consideration of this request

Respectfully Submitted,



Martin T Reilly

Member

Van Horn Parents Association Monument Committee

cc: Mayor Dominic Sarno  
Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director, Parks, Buildings, Recreation Management  
City Councilor Michael Fenton, President, Springfield City Council