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Nash, McFadden- Weaver Announce \$300,000 for Inner-city Youth Project

Kansas City, Mo. - Councilwoman Saundra McFadden-Weaver and Councilman Troy Nash announced \$300,000 in PIAC funds to assist in the funding of the "Champions Sports Complex" for inner city youth.

This spring, construction will begin on a multi-use recreational complex at Woodland Elementary School. The complex will replace a concrete play area and a large vacant lot at 9th and Woodland.

McFadden-Weaver said, "Investments such as this afford urban core youth the opportunity not only to participate in sports activities but to experience the rewards and feeling of accomplishment achieved through the art of competition. We couldn't be more delighted by the positive impact that a development like this will provide for our youth in the inner city."

The athletic facility will provide a unique opportunity for high quality, well organized sports and character building programs for children, ages 7-14. The concept of the "Champions Sports Complex" evolved from a proposal created by the Twelfth Street Heritage Development Corporation

(TSHDC). In addition to the City's contribution, TSHDC was initially awarded a \$100,000 grant by the NFL Grassroots Program, a partnership of the NFL Youth Football Fund and the national office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for hard costs associated with the development.

"Instead of vacant lots being dumping grounds for trash and used for crime, this type of land use transformation into productive, useable open space, is exactly the type of change we all want to see in the inner city. This project is the best of all that a public-private partnership has to offer," said Nash.

The start up costs for the complex will be approximately \$500,000 for construction and \$1,500,000 for program costs.