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For immediate release

Commissioner Keith Tozer Brings Futsal to Lincoln Park ***“Pole-Pulling” Event to Mark Transformation***

Milwaukee, WI (April. 22, 2015) – The growing sport of futsal is coming to Lincoln Park through a partnership of the Milwaukee County Parks with Wisconsin Sports Group. Futsal is similar to five-a-side soccer but is played on a hard-surfaced court with a weighted ball. Tuesday, April 28, from 11-11:30 a.m., dignitaries will have a “pole-pulling” to begin the transformation of the Lincoln Park tennis courts into new futsal courts. Lincoln Park is located at 1301 E. Hampton Ave.

Converting underutilized tennis and basketball courts to futsal courts is taking place in metropolitan areas across the United States. New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Orlando have all recently renovated tennis courts for futsal use. The four tennis courts in Milwaukee’s Lincoln Park will be converted into two, 70-by-85-foot futsal courts, with an upgraded surface.

“We are very excited about this great partnership with Milwaukee County Parks to provide the children of Milwaukee—as well as adults—the opportunity to play futsal in a safe and fun environment,” said Keith Tozer, Commissioner of the new Professional Futsal League and President of Wisconsin Sports Group. “These courts will allow thousands of children who might not have had the opportunity to play sports before to grow as athletes while developing social skills in a team environment.”

Recent World Cup soccer stars, including Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Neymar da Silva Santos Jr. have credited playing futsal in their youth for making them the players they are today.

From the Lincoln Park Area, First District Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. said, "I welcome the addition of Futsal to Lincoln Park; it is an exciting new recreational opportunity for our community. This private investment joins more than \$60 million in public investment in and around Lincoln Park over the last decade including the Schulz Aquatic Center, public art, a new playground, and a cleaner and more accessible Milwaukee River."

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Following the “pole-pulling” ceremony, youth players will demonstrate the sport.

“Bringing futsal to Lincoln Park is just one more example of your Parks tapping into the passions of the community,” said John Dargle, Jr., Parks Director.

In related news, Wisconsin Sports Group will also be bringing a major futsal qualifying tournament to Milwaukee. Local youth teams will have the opportunity to participate in the Disney Midwest Futsal Qualifying Tournament at the Milwaukee County Sports Complex, May 29-31. Winning youths from each age division will go on to the World Futsal Championships in Orlando.

For more information on futsal and the tournament, visit wisconsinsportsgroup.com

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