



Memo

To: Dr. Douglas Hewett, City Manager

From: Nichelle Gaines, Office of Community Safety, and Program Manager

Thru: John Jones, Office of Community Safety, and Director

Date: October 6, 2025

Re: City Council Agenda Item Request: Massey Hill Rec Afterschool Programming

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of afterschool programming available at the Massey Hill Recreation Center, its potential impact on students attending Howard Learning Academy, and relevant juvenile justice data for consideration.

Current Afterschool Programming

- Massey Hill Tigers Youth Group
 - Free afterschool program led by Ms. Stella Mullen.
 - Hosted at Massey Hill Recreation Center.
- Alexander Youth Network Day Treatment Program
 - Located on the Howard Learning Academy campus.
 - Structured clinical and educational program supporting students with mental or behavioral health diagnoses.
 - Focus areas: socialization, friendship building, teamwork, and self-esteem.

OCS staff have contacted both program providers to obtain additional details on participation and program capacity.

Juvenile Justice Data (North Carolina – 2023 Annual Report)

- Timing of Offenses: 19% of juvenile delinquency offenses occur between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.
- School-Based Offenses: 28% of complaints are school-related, with simple assault as the most common charge.
- Cost of Detention and Development Centers:
 - Youth Detention Centers (including Cumberland County)
 - \$244 per youth, per day.
 - State covers \$122; County covers \$122.
 - Average annual cost per youth: \$89,060 (length of stay varies).
 - Youth Development Centers
 - \$136,092 per youth annually.

- Facilities located in Cabarrus, Chatham, Edgecombe, Lenoir, and Rockingham Counties.
- Mental Health Findings (Youth Development Center Survey):
 - 98% of confined youth had at least one mental health diagnosis.
 - 56% had co-occurring mental health and substance use diagnoses.
 - 41% were prescribed psychotropic medication (88% of girls; 36% of boys).
 - Youth averaged four distinct diagnoses, with some reporting as many as twelve.

Additional Context

- OCS staff have requested juvenile-specific crime data from the Fayetteville Police Department for both citywide trends and the Massey Hill area. This information is pending.
- Met with Dr. Natasha Scott to discuss student services and explore alignment opportunities with Cumberland County Schools. The meeting provided a clear understanding of the behavioral health supports currently available to students and highlighted opportunities for OCS to collaborate with Dr. Scott's team to ensure effective support for young people.
- Per Parks and Recreation staff, Howard Learning Academy currently enrolls 10 students. Most reside outside the Massey Hill community, which may create barriers for families seeking to access afterschool programs at Massey Hill Recreation Center.

Next Steps

1. Review forthcoming juvenile-specific crime data from the Fayetteville Police Department.
2. Assess potential barriers to afterschool program participation for students who live outside Massey Hill.
3. Explore opportunities to strengthen coordination between Howard Learning Academy, Massey Hill Recreation Center, and community partners.