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**Request to Albany County**  
**for the R. Mark and Kathleen Sullivan Turf Field Replacement Project**  
**at the Christian Plumeri Sports Complex**

**Project summary**

The College of Saint Rose requests funding to replace the artificial turf on our existing home field at the Christian Plumeri Sports Complex in Albany, New York. The Dr. R. Mark and Kathleen Sullivan Field, the home field for the Saint Rose women's and men's soccer and lacrosse teams, is at the end of its useful life. Designed to last no more than a decade, the field is over 13 years old and can no longer undergo repairs to maintain a safe playing surface for student athletes and the City of Albany summer youth programs.

The College is seeking to raise \$550,000 by July 1 for turf field replacement and basic facility upgrades. We respectfully request \$250,000 from Albany County to support this project.

The original artificial turf was installed in the spring of 2010. After thirteen years of year-round use by four NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletic programs (men's and women's lacrosse and soccer) and summer community programming, the original artificial turf has reached the end of its useful life cycle. Further repairs can no longer be made. The turf field cannot remain in use after the 2023 spring season.

**Impact on community**

The City and the College have successfully maintained a public-private partnership at Hoffman Park and the Plumeri Sports Complex in South Albany since 2007. The City-owned complex, completed with the College's initial \$6 million investment in spring 2010, is maintained by the College for both City and College use.

The City of Albany summer programs utilize this field for youth soccer and other tournaments, camps, and clinics. The City reports approximately 700 registered participants throughout the City's six weeks of summer camps. This include 6 to 12 hours a week of turf field use in over 10 different sports and activities.

Over the past 13 years, the College has hosted many national events including NCAA Regionals and Northeast-10 semi-finals and championships. These events have brought thousands of visitors from all over the country with positive impact on the County's restaurants, hotels, and tourism industry.

### **Impact on College**

The College's athletic facilities play a significant role in attracting new students. One third of Saint Rose undergraduates are athletes. As college enrollments in the Northeast continue to be challenging, excellent athletic facilities provide a competitive recruiting advantage. Furthermore, once enrolled and engaged in their sport, student athletes also retain at a higher rate than non-athletes.

If the turf field is not replaced by next summer, our teams will not be able to use their "home" field. This would result in the College renting alternate fields for practice and competitions, incurring an estimated additional \$340,000/year of expenses for the College.

### **Commitments Secured**

The City of Albany has committed \$250,000 to the project. The College's alumni and friends have committed \$50,000 and fundraising activities are continuing.

### **Project Specifics**

Eight Request for Proposals were sent out for this project; of the five that responded Keystone Sports Construction of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania provided the lowest bid.

Keystone Sports Construction will supply and install the new synthetic turf system. The scope of the work will include mobilization, site work, site preparation and the RootZone 3d3 blend synthetic turf system with an 8-year warranty.

The RootZone, a texturized layer of fibers that draw down to encapsulate infill, results in minimal rubber splash, better shock absorbency, and less infill migration than basic systems. The RootZone improves safety, playability, and durability, making 3D systems the top choice for athletes and field owners alike. Importantly, independently funded research by Michigan State University has shown the RootZone to reduce torque transmitted to lower extremities.

Ideally, commencement of the work will be on or around May 15, 2023 and completed by July 15, 2023. Removal and installation of the new turf will take roughly three to six weeks. Keystone Sports Construction will notify the College of local subcontractors or suppliers proposed to do work prior to the commencement of work.



### **Aerial of the Hoffman Park – Christian Plumeri Sports Complex**

#### **Conclusion**

A County grant of \$250,000 will enable the College to replace the artificial turf on the R. Mark and Kathleen Sullivan Field. This replacement is crucial to continue to provide a venue for the College's athletic programs and the City's summer recreational leagues, charity games, and summer sports camps.