



CITY OF DORAL Office of the City Manager Letter to Council

LTC No. 012-2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Barbie Hernandez, City Manager

Date: July 21, 2023

Subject: **Pickleball Court Analysis**

This Letter to Council (LTC) serves to inform the Mayor and Council of an analysis completed to provide more dedicated pickleball court space to the community.

Background

Pickleball is a paddle game played with a baseball-sized wiffleball over a tennis-type net on a badminton-sized court with a paddle. The sport is a racket/paddle sport that was created by combining elements of several other racket sports. The growth of pickleball has been attributed to people of varying ages and physical abilities being able to enjoy the game. The game is also associated with a strong social aspect.

Estimated Costs

The cost to convert one tennis court to four dedicated pickleball courts costs an average of \$20,000-\$30,000.

The vendor who was awarded the tennis court resurfacing project provided an estimate for the changes. The conversion of the court would require four (4) high chain link fences, relining of the courts, and four (4) sets of pickleball net posts and nets.

Current Pickleball Sites

The City currently has five (5) tennis courts with blended lines (ten (10) pickleball courts total-two (2) pickleball courts per tennis court) and portable nets.

These hybrid pickleball courts are located at the following locations.

- Two blended line courts at Doral Legacy Park
- Two blended line courts at Morgan Levy Park
- One blended line court at Doral Glades Park

While the popularity for Pickleball is rapidly increasing, the tennis courts continue to be of heavy use as well. If at Doral Legacy Park one (1) court is converted into pickleball only, there will be three (3) courts open for the public to use for tennis as one (1) court is used for tennis lessons. This will be the same at Morgan Levy Park.

Conclusion

The goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide adequate services and proper facilities to keep up with trends. The sharing of a blended line court, where at times has become an issue, may be alleviated by creating dedicated spaces for pickleball.

An immediate solution to address the need for Pickleball courts, is creating a period, day/time, where one (1) court is reserved for pickleball only. This would allow pickleball players opportunities to play without competing with those that play tennis for their reservations. Evaluations can be made as to which day/time and location would be best and monitor the use of the Pickleball courts.

The Parks and Recreation Department is also working to provide pickleball clinics to allow those in the community the opportunity to learn the sport and improve their skills. These will begin in the Fall.

Additionally, a community workshop is being planned to be held in late August to allow community members the opportunity to provide their feedback and suggestions on pickleball so we can gather input and evaluate the best direction forward. Information on the community workshop will be shared with Mayor and Council and residents once finalized.

c: Francisco Rios, Deputy City Manager
Erin Sullivan, Parks & Recreation Director
Lazaro Quintero, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director