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## MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 21, 2007

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### **HPARD Expands Soccer Programming To Middle Schools**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Houston Independent School District and Minute Maid, Yellow Cab, and Taxis Fiesta, announces the expansion of its after-school soccer programs to middle school students this fall.

**WHO:** An estimated 400 students at HISD middle schools Jane Long, Sharpstown, Johnston, McReynolds, Fleming, and Holland

**WHAT:** A free after-school soccer program, funded by Minute Maid, Yellow Cab, and Taxis Fiesta

**WHEN:** Beginning October 2007

**WHY:** Middle school sports programs are limited in the number of students they serve. Sixth graders, in particular, are targeted by this program because they often go without any opportunity to participate in an organized school sports program.

The Soccer After School program provides boys and girls aged 11-14 an opportunity to engage in healthy physical activity, develop sports skills and self-confidence, and build positive relationships. The program gives children an outlet for constructive use of leisure time during the critical after-school hours between 4:00 & 6:00 p.m., when incidences of juvenile delinquency and crime are highest.

The program's underwriters, Minute Maid, Yellow Cab, and Taxis Fiesta, share a common philanthropic vision to support quality of life experiences for Houston's underserved youth.

For information on youth sports programs and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (713) 845-1135 or visit our web site at [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org)