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## Press Release

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### **HPARD Soccer for Success Youth to Attend First Lady's Let's Move Youth Soccer Clinic**

On Tuesday, May 15, two Houston young people will join First Lady Michelle Obama, the MLS Cup Champion, the LA Galaxy, and 24 other participants from the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Soccer for Success program for a soccer clinic on the South Lawn of the White House. The young people are part of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's (H.P.A.R.D.) Soccer for Success Program. Arythma Torres participates in H.P.A.R.D.'s Soccer for Success Program at Southmayd Elementary School and Angel Perrett participates in H.P.A.R.D.'s Soccer for Success Program at Rucker Elementary. They are accompanied on the trip by relatives.

"We are thankful to the US Soccer Foundation for their partnership in our local Soccer for Success program," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We are especially thankful for the opportunity they have given Arythma and Angel to be a part of this clinic."

H.P.A.R.D.'s Soccer for Success Program was established in the fall of 2009 and is a partnership program between the Department, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the Houston Dynamo and Dynamo Charities, and the Houston Independent School District. It offers Houston children the opportunity to take part in an organized after-school recreational soccer program at no charge. Originally created by H.P.A.R.D. over three years ago, the Department has worked with the Foundation to develop educational curriculum and training guidelines to help replicate the Soccer for Success program in other cities. Today, H.P.A.R.D.'s Soccer for Success program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation. The program offers over 1,000 low-income youth the opportunity to learn soccer and develop life skills that will last throughout their lives.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 38,992 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).