



Member, U.S. Olympic Committee

January 12, 2022

**Subject:** Badminton in Orange County Great Park

Dear Mayor Khan, Vice Mayor Kuo & Larry Argan, Mike Carroll & Tammy Kim as Members of the Irvine City Council,

USA Badminton wholeheartedly supports the petition made for indoor badminton to be added to your public sports offerings in the City of Irvine at Orange County Great Park. We are sure this will bring both physical and mental health benefits to your residents through fitness and social activity resulting in a positive effect on the overall health of your residents. There has been an explosion of interest in badminton in your city with the new influx of residents.

USAB is a member in good standing with the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Badminton Pan American Confederation (BPAC) and United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). As an Olympic NGB, USAB has consistently qualified athletes for the Olympic Games since badminton became an Olympic Sport in 1992. Many of these athletes trained in Southern California and the Irvine area.

While I write as the Chief Executive Officer of USA Badminton, I am also a lifelong badminton player. As a 1992 and 1996 Olympian myself, I am well aware of the tremendous impact badminton can have on the lives of those who play: juniors; adults; and seniors of all sizes and abilities. I can tell you the benefits of playing badminton are as many and diverse as the people who play. Badminton is the best sport for fitness, social activity and mental health.

As USA Badminton continues to grow in number of both recreational and elite athletes, we believe that the addition of badminton courts to your community offerings will greatly enhance your city. Your lack of public badminton courts is something that you can remedy; please make this move for your residents and for the health of your community.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at [Linda.French@usabadminton.org](mailto:Linda.French@usabadminton.org) or on my direct line of 678-358-6855. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda French

Chief Executive Officer, USA Badminton

