

AEDs could be required for youth softball leagues

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CITY HALL -- Life-saving automated external defibrillators could be provided to youth softball leagues on city property under a law proposed by Councilman Steven Matteo.

The measure would expand on existing legislation passed earlier this year requiring AEDs at little leagues. ([click this link](#))

"This new bill is the logical next step in our efforts to expand access to these indispensable lifesaving devices to all New Yorkers, particularly those who are most vulnerable," Matteo (R-Mid-Island) said in a statement.



Matteo will introduce the bill on Thursday with Health Committee Chair Councilman Corey Johnson (D-Manhattan) and Parks Chair Councilman Stephen Levin (D-Brooklyn).

The proposed law could require youth softball leagues to have at least one working AED available at every game and practice and ensure members are trained in how to use them. Both the devices and training would be provided by the city at no cost to the leagues.

The city will spend \$3.5 million once every seven years on the previous mandate for youth baseball leagues.

The exact cost of the new law is unknown because the city would have to assess the total number of youth softball leagues. This is expected to be cheaper than the first law, however, as there are fewer softball teams than those in little baseball leagues.

The Parks Department also already has a system in place to distribute the AEDs and train leagues on how to use them.

AEDs help re-establish normal heart contractions after cardiac arrest. Last year, a [South Shore Little League official collapsed during Opening Day](#) ([click this link](#)) and was ultimately saved with the help of an AED and a fast-acting baseball coach who helped direct a cardiac care response.

They are required in public schools. A law from then-Councilman James Oddo mandated AEDs in other public spaces, such as gyms and the ferry terminals, as well as six parks in each borough to have the devices.
