Local Boys' Club Given Reprieve

The Boys' Club of Lafayette almost had the City Council's support pulled out from under it yesterday, but it got a three-year reprieve at the last minute.

The issue surfaced when the Council considered a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract with the Boy's Club for space at Pa Davis Park to relocate its operation from the City Park recreation center which has been slated for renovation by the city, leaving Boys' Club without a building.

It was a recommendation of the Recreation and Parks Commission and the superintendent of recreation that, since the city has supported the Boys' Club for a number of years, the Council should provide an interim of (Continued on Page 5, Col. 1)

Local Boys'

(Continued From Page 1)
two years for the transition to self-support.

Glynn Abel, director of the Department of Recreation, told the Council he felt that such a provision concerning the transition would make the Boys' Club "get to work and get independent of the city... Hopefully before that time they can become self-sufficient."

But a problem arises because the Boys' Club receives about 45 percent of its funding from the United Givers Fund and the UGF requires two years' notice before a participating agency can start its own fund-raising drive. Also, because it receives money from the UGF, the club cannot directly solicit funds.

Eric Arceneaux, president of the board of directors of Boys' Club, was direct:

"If you hold us up two years, it will destroy Boys' Club," he told the City Council.

Dave Botchin, executive director of the club, was more specific. If it isn't allowed to use city property to locate its building, he explained, it must purchase land at an initially large capital outlay.

"Would you immediately embark on a project to become self-sufficient?" Councilman Dub Hudson asked.

"We'd have no choice," Arceneaux responded.