

June 4th, 2019

Dear Vaughan Council,

Re: WOODBRIDGE SOCCER CLUB: UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL FOR A SEASONAL SPORTS DOME AT VAUGHAN GROVE SPORTS PARK

After reviewing the documents and communications with respect to the above, I suggest the City not entertain the unsolicited proposal any further.

This proposal would not be appropriate for a municipal government to support in light of federal government mandates that minors (especially those under age 13) not specialize in one specific team sport and play competitive games all year around in that sport which includes soccer as well as baseball, ice hockey, and basketball. Although there is pushback by local associations, all four NSOs (National Sports Organizations) such as Hockey Canada and Baseball Canada have been mandated they discontinue their year-round "professionalism" of youth sports; otherwise they risk losing their affiliation with their respective NSO. Repetitive motion injuries are causing severe physical ailments during pre-adolescence due to overuse without off-season recovery time and emotional burnout before children are able to transition into their adolescent years. And too often they resign from sports participation prior to high school completely rather than transition to community or recreational level to maintain or support principles of physical literacy, social diversity and inclusion as they progress toward young adulthood.

If the city supports the WSCs sports dome then they are essentially promoting competitive soccer all four seasons which only perpetuates early specialization which does not align with federal mandates.

Hiten Patel

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