

June 5, 2018

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COMMUNICATION
CW (WS) - June 6 / 2018
ITEM - 4.2

Dear Mayor, Members of Council

RE: Sports Village/Berkley Academy proposal

I am writing to you with regards to the proposed development on the Vaughan Sports Village parkland by the Mentana group. The Mentana group has proposed to develop the 33 acre site, as you know, into a state of the art private entertainment complex/campus that will be the home to over 750 students.

It shocks me to think that this is actually being considered. To remove 33 acres of parkland, that not only does the entire community use but also many residents within the City of Vaughan, at their leisure, and replace it with a privately owned facility that the community will possibly have access to only after the students have completed their day and if the City does not permit out the facility. Also, it was proposed that the purchase price for these 33 acres in the centre of the City is only \$10 million dollars, this is well below the fair market value of land in this area. The tax payers will be funding a privately owned facility with minimal, if any benefit to the community.

I have lived in this community for almost 19 years and I watched the Sports Village being built. I purchased my home at a premium because it backed on to a park. Not only did the salesperson at Midpark homes confirm that the land behind my home will be a park but I also confirmed this with the City of Vaughan planning department, that this land behind Hollybush Drive would be a District Park. We decided to raise a family here and I was excited to learn when the Sports Village had an outdoor skate path. This path only lasted three or four years, when the Sports Village operators were trying to charge residents \$5 for use of the free outdoor skate path. This didn't generate much money and the rink was no longer operational the following year. Also to be removed was the free skateboard park that is now a money generating volleyball league. Unlike other communities in Vaughan, the Sports Village has never hosted a free skate day for the community. My point is that any free community use venue at the Sports Village has been removed. If this past record of the Mentana group is any indication of things to come, the community will not have any access to this area, this would be a horrible.

My family is also concerned about the increase in noise level and the increase in traffic volume this expansion would cause. We already hear the music from the volleyball courts, which is bearable, and the trains at night, which is at times unbearable. Having a 5000 seat arena and an outdoor amphitheatre would turn Rutherford Rd into a parking lot. It is already extremely difficult to move around this area because of Wonderland, Vaughan Mills and the GO train. The infrastructure can not sustain another large venue even when Rutherford is increased to three lanes.

The Sports Village is a park, prime parkland in Maple is precious and **should not** be sold and handed over to developers. Parkland should be enhanced for all community members to enjoy an enhanced quality of life, young and old. This park has the potential to be the jewel of Vaughan, as High Park is to Toronto. Would you develop a campus like entertainment centre in High Park? I think not. Please do not allow this wonderful parkland to be sold.

Mario Marmora


From: M M [REDACTED]
Sent: June-06-18 1:22 AM
To: Council; Clerks@vaughan.ca; Ciampa, Gina; Iafrate, Marilyn
Subject: Committee of the Whole Working Session (June 6, 2018) - Item-Vaughan Sports Village
Attachments: SportsVillage letter to Council.docx

Hello,

Please accept this letter as my formal communication submission regarding the above Item for the upcoming Committee of the Whole Working Session meeting June 6th, 2018 at 1:00PM.

Thank you,

Mario Marmora
[REDACTED]