

From: [Matthew Gordon](#)
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: [Magnifico, Rose](#)
Subject: [External] Please circulate for council meeting
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 10:42:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

**COMMUNICATION – C7
Council – January 26, 2021
Committee of the Whole
Report No. 1, Item 13**

At the meeting on the 19th, there was suggestions that the decision to close the outdoor rinks was following the Province's Stay at Home rules. With respect, that is a misunderstanding. Firstly, the province hasn't asked Toronto, Mississauga or any other municipality to close the outdoor rinks. Its advised Newmarket that it may reopen its rinks. Secondly, the very first section of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PROTECTION ACT of January 13, 2021 says that the rules don't apply to exercising including using an outdoor recreational amenity and it makes specific reference to Skate Parks. Like at all times, we just have to keep our safe distances. So please understand, that this is not the province telling us to close.

We are all looking out for the wellbeing of our neighbors. But you each have a duty to the young families and children of Vaughan. It might seem attractive to take a hatchet and say "Close Everything, don't allow residents to use any of our outdoor recreational activities." It's difficult to be nuanced, but that is what is needed from our leadership. Political leadership must always balance competing concerns, and you must, must, think about the mental health of our youth and their parents. These are parents who are working from home, with kids trying to do school from home while not allowed to go to their friends houses and who have nothing fun to do.

Regrettably, you lack diversity of age, which would have more easily led to diversity of opinion. Obviously that's none of your faults, but it's a reality. And I have great respect for each of you. But I am asking you to do something which isn't simple: put yourself in the place of a parent of two or three young children, and ask yourself, what the hell can I let my kid do. Day after day after day.

Skating is about as safe an activity as you can find. You're outdoors, you're moving, you're constantly getting fresh air. We can wear masks and keep distances while waiting in line.

The people of Vaughan are fortunate to have leadership that is striving to do the right thing. We are asking you to balance the need to protect the vulnerable from the spread of coronavirus while allowing a safe outlet for many in desperate need. **Mental health is real.**

I urge you to order the reopening of Vaughan's outdoor rinks immediately.

Matthew Gordon

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca <Clerks@vaughan.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Matthew Gordon [REDACTED]
Cc: Magnifico, Rose <Rose.Magnifico@vaughan.ca>
Subject: RE: upcoming council meeting

Good morning,

Request to speak at council meetings are not permitted as per the [procedural By-law 7-2011](#).

However, you can submit a communication to Council regarding this item before the deadline of Monday, January 25, 2021 by 12 p.m. Please send your communication to clerks@vaughan.ca

For more information regarding submitting communications to council and committee meetings, please see our Speaking to Council webpage link below:

<https://www.vaughan.ca/council/Pages/Speaking-to-Council.aspx>

Thank you

City of Vaughan | Office of the City Clerk

2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1

vaughan.ca

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From: Matthew Gordon <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 12:05 AM

To: Clerks@vaughan.ca

Subject: [External] upcoming council meeting

I would like to speak, please, at the upcoming council meeting (26th) to the issue of outdoor skating. Can you please add me?



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