



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (1) / JANUARY 19, 2021
Title:	REOPENING OF PUBLIC SKATING RINKS
Submitted by:	Ward 5 City Alan Shefman

Preamble:

It is my belief that we need to do whatever we can to not only protect the residents of the City of Vaughan from COVID-19. At the same time, we need to assist them in dealing with the stress of responding to the pandemic. I am especially concerned for young children and their parents. By providing for some outdoor physical activity such as skating I firmly believe we contribute to people's mental health.

Whereas the City of Vaughan's five community ice rinks were closed in response to the latest provincial orders intensifying the lock down in the province, and

Whereas the Provincial orders did not specifically require that skating must be closed, and

Whereas there have been a variety of issues in the operation of the City's rinks relating to demand, failure to distance and behaviours that may not meet the current distancing and mask wearing rules, and

Whereas many municipalities have decided to keep their skating facilities open at this time by using a variety of strategies to address safety concerns, and

Whereas there are a wide variety of systems and procedures in place in other municipalities being used to maximize safety for users of the skating rinks, and

Whereas it is of utmost importance for the City of Vaughan to do everything possible to protect its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and

Whereas there is increasing recognition of the mental stress on residents and especially families with young children of the extended restrictions due to the pandemic, and

Whereas it is necessary for the City to be creative in assisting its residents in any way possible during this difficult time, and

Whereas the staff of the City has shown their extraordinary abilities to develop and implement plans throughout the period of the pandemic.

It is therefore recommended:

That a comprehensive management plan focused on ensuring the maximum safety possible for all users and staff be developed immediately with the goal of reopening City skating rinks no later than January 23 be prepared and put in place, and

That a report on the re-opening of the rinks be provided to Members of Council via memo no later than 10 days after the re-opening.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman,
Ward 5 City Councillor