

# Denzil Minnan-Wong

COUNCILLOR, DON VALLEY EAST, WARD 34

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Councillor Janet Davis  
Chair, Community Development  
And Recreation Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
Suite C57

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

**Re: Request for Report Regarding Loss of Ice Time For Victoria Village Hockey League at Angela James Arena**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, the attached email was forwarded to Greg Hopper, President of the Victoria Village Hockey League regarding the loss of ice time at Angela James Arena in favour of another league.

I am writing to request that a report be prepared by city staff with regard to the unfair decision by Parks, Forestry and Recreation to take away this long held time slot at Angela James Arena from the Victoria Village Hockey League. I ask that this letter be on the agenda of the Community Development and Recreation Committee on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and that the report be on the Committee's June 2010 agenda for deputation, so that the many families who will be impacted by the loss of this ice time have the opportunity to be heard.

The city is taking ice time away from a league that has operated a community based, recreational house league program for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16 for more than 40 years. Last years enrolment was approximately 430 players.

The Victoria Village Hockey League is unique in that each team is provided with a game and a practice each week. Many other programs do not offer a practice every week. Younger players and siblings can also participate in the League's hockey school.

Each year, the Victoria Village Hockey League also offers a sponsorship program that provides financial assistance and/or equipment to as many as 10 to 15 families who might not otherwise be able to afford to have their children play hockey.

For the last 3 or 4 years, the League has experienced significant growth in the younger age groups and has been adding teams to the tyke and novice divisions each year for the past three years. Its plan for the coming season, if given enough ice time, is to continue this growth by adding at least one more tyke team



TORONTO CITY HALL, 100 QUEEN STREET WEST, SUITE C55, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N2

TEL.: (416) 397-9256 • FAX: (416) 397-4100 • E-MAIL: [dminnan@toronto.ca](mailto:dminnan@toronto.ca)

and two more novice teams - about 48 additional players. The League should be commended for its contributions and accomplishments.

I am extremely disappointed by the decision made by city staff. Furthermore, I do not feel that city staff were genuinely interested in treating the Victoria Village Hockley League fairly nor did they seem genuine in their efforts to accommodate the League. In fact, city staff did more to accommodate the league taking the ice time from them. The result was an arbitrary decision, without consultation, to take away ice time that the Victoria Village Hockey League had enjoyed for a number of years.

I understand that other leagues need ice time, but it should not be at the expense of a local community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denzil Minnan-Wong', written in a cursive style.

Denzil Minnan-Wong  
Councillor, Don Valley East  
Ward 34

cc. Brenda Patterson  
Greg Hopper