



Mark Grimes

City Councillor **Ward 6** Etobicoke-Lakeshore

markgrimes.ca



EX30.14.2

January 23, 2018

Dear Chair Tory & Members of Executive Committee,

I am writing to you regarding item EX30.14 – Authority to Enter Into Bid Agreements for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. In recent years, Toronto's sports community has become increasingly recognized on the global stage, hosting events such as the 2017 Invictus Games, 2016 NBA All Star Game and several Grey Cup Championships, among other notable events.

As the City's official champion for the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in 2015, I witnessed the energy and excitement that swept the city at the height of the games. As part of the FIFA 2026 World Cup Host City Bid Advisory Group, I believe we have a prime opportunity to bring another world-class sporting event to Toronto.

The 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup will be the largest held to date, with 48 nations competing over a 30 day period. The World Cup is a highly prestigious event that would generate significant economic development, community engagement and media coverage opportunities for Toronto. Given no new facilities or infrastructure would be required for the City to host the 2026 World Cup, this would only serve to benefit the City and our profile as a destination for the international sports community.

I am strongly in favour of this item, and ask that the Executive Committee approve the report and affirm its support for the 2026 FIFA World Cup United Bid.

Best regards,

Councillor Mark Grimes
Ward 6, Etobicoke-Lakeshore