

Form letters regarding SH Armstrong Community Pool

(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Ben Ferguson
(February 12, 2017) E-mail from Maria Ruscetti
(February 12, 2017) E-mail from Dominic Assalone
(February 12, 2017) E-mail from Lidia Assalone
(February 12, 2017) Email from Emily Nicholas
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Shelby Hallman Mailloux
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Darlene Cunningham
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Sara McLaren Wiseman
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Jennifer Farr
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Aron McGrath
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Laura Watson
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Adrienne Dunn
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Emmanuelle Massaro
(February 13, 2017) E-mail from Ellie Arscott
(February 14, 2017) E-mail from Laurie Barnett and James
McPherson (February 13, 2017) E-mail from Shiralee Hudson Hill
(February 14, 2017) E-mail from Robert Miller
(February 14, 2017) E-mail from Lori Delorme
(February 14, 2017) E-mail from Yvonne, Jeff and Gabriel Speed
(February 14, 2017) E-mail from Angie Law
(February 15, 2017) E-mail from Teresa Neves

I am writing to ask you to support Councillor McMahon's upcoming motion this week to continue aquatics programming at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre and engage in proper consultation with the community around pool programming and utilization (in line with the Executive Committee's recent direction on this last point).

I do not believe city staff have considered all the facts particularly the high growth of young families in the neighbourhood and changing service needs of this community.

Relocating aquatics programming offered at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre shuts down a significant portion of the community centre. This presents a substantial impact to community service levels while setting a dangerous precedent city-wide.

Relocating aquatics programming to other centres 2 to 3 kilometres away also goes against the city's policies to support walkability for this community. This is particularly true for the neighbouring public housing ... cutting recreation programming at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre runs counter to the intent of the poverty reduction strategy. Furthermore, it flies in the face of the 61,000+ residents (most of whom are children) who are on waitlists for City Swim programs – including at the aquatics facilities closest to S.H. Armstrong.

The community came out strongly on Sunday to rally in support of pool programming at S.H. Armstrong – despite the snowstorm – proof that we believe that this is a service worth maintaining. As was mentioned by many people present, we deserve access to affordable swimming programs like other residents of this city – more so due to our community's proximity to the waterfront. Here are some links to media coverage from the event:

CTV: <http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/video...>

Global: <http://globalnews.ca/.../save-our-pool-community-rallies-to.../...>

City:

<http://www.citynews.ca/.../video-rally-to-save-leslieville-s.../>

Lastly this approach to service cuts – substantially cutting the service offerings to a growing community without a community dialogue - sets an alarming precedent city-wide for future budgets. In this respect, the approach to cuts at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre pool stand to affect all communities in future budgets.

I would ask that you support the idea that communities need to be directly consulted before there are substantial changes to their city service levels.

It is in this spirit that I ask that you to support Councillor McMahon's motion to continue running City of Toronto Aquatics Programming at S.H. Armstrong pool and allow the community time to work with city staff on appropriate service levels in line with city strategies and priorities.