

To the City Clerk
Re: EX 20.5
January 27, 2025

I am deeply concerned about Councillor Chris Moise's inexplicable determination to dismantle a decades-long tradition and a vital community institution—the Moss Park Arena staff and board. This arena is a well-run rink, and is a cornerstone of the community, with its staff and board widely recognized and appreciated by residents.

The unique operational structure of Moss Park Arena allows it to offer an impressive range of diverse programming that caters to people from all walks of life. From women's-only and co-ed hockey leagues to affordable skating programs and hockey schools for all skill levels, the arena provides invaluable access to much needed ice time. It even offers equipment on loan to those in need. I remember borrowing an extra elbow pad when I forgot the other at home.

Yes, this arena needs investment to fix some critical systems, and surely, its exterior needs an upgrade. But those issues can be rectified with the City working with the board to assess its needs and provide the necessary capital to make the improvements.

Councillor Moise's unprovoked efforts to disrupt this cherished arena are both unnecessary and misguided. Instead of dismantling a successful, community-driven volunteer board, we should be working with them in the spirit of collaboration. I have visited numerous city-run rinks, where frequent staff turnover leads to a lack of ownership and ongoing maintenance challenges.

In contrast, Moss Park has a dedicated governance model, which fosters continuity, pride, and a deep connection with the community. The city and Councillor Moise should work with them to understand the issues, not make unilateral motions to dismantle them. City Council must recognize the unique role that Moss Park Arena plays in the neighborhood, from its inclusive programming to the familiar, friendly faces we all know and trust.

The residents of Toronto-Centre are paying close attention to how Council will vote on this entirely unnecessary motion. Councillor Moise should be focusing on the pressing issues facing our city, rather than targeting a beloved community hub.

Thank you,

Daniel Tate