

City Councillor

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To the Attention of the Chair and Members of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Subcommittee:

For nearly a century, the FIFA World Cup has brought people together across the globe, fostering unity through a shared language of community, freedom, and creativity—and in little less than a year, it will arrive in Toronto. In that same spirit, the City of Toronto's *Soccer for All Legacy Fund* aims to ensure that youth—particularly in underserved communities—have access to safe spaces to play and access to inclusive and empowering programming.

Regular participation in sport has well-documented benefits: it improves health outcomes, strengthens self-esteem, fosters enduring friendships, and nurtures lifelong passion. However, the challenges to sustaining a healthy sporting culture in underserved areas go beyond financial barriers. Access to safe, well-maintained facilities, and the training needed to support local coaches in handling difficult conversations are also essential to eliminating discrimination and promoting inclusion in sport.

While many of our neighbourhoods may face funding shortfalls, our residents—particularly equity-seeking families from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds—deeply understand the values of hard work, shared responsibility, and community solidarity. Across generations and backgrounds, there is a collective desire to help our youth thrive. Our communities are made stronger and safer when we provide structures for our elders and local residents to guide our youth. My staff and I have enjoyed working over the past few weeks with the FWC26 Toronto Secretariat to craft the language in Recommendation 6, which provides the basis on which to build strong locally rooted partners.

Through the SFA Legacy Fund, we will build local capacity within our communities by supporting youth with transferable life skills while enhancing the social fabric of our neighbourhoods. In this way, our youth will be able to play freely on their own terms, just for the pure love of the game.

Sincerely,

Jamaal Myers



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