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Communication  
FAA - June 19/17  
Item #7

June 19, 2017

Mayor and Members of Council  
City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

**Re: Finance, Administration and Audit Committee, June 19, 2017, Agenda Item 7, Ontario Soccer Association (OSA) and Soccer Centre Ontario (OSC) Proposed Amalgamation, Ward 2**

I am writing in my capacity as president of the York Region Soccer Association--- the organization which represents nineteen soccer clubs from Steeles Avenue to Lake Simcoe, with a combined membership of 52,000 players. Five of our member clubs (Kleinburg-Nobleton, Glen Shields, Vaughan, Woodbridge, and Woodbridge Italia) are based in Vaughan with a combined membership of approximately 16,000 or 30% of our total.

At a meeting convened to discuss this issue the direction was unanimous to vehemently oppose the amalgamation of the Ontario Soccer Association and the Soccer Centre (Ontario), otherwise known as the OSC.

In our view, the arrangement that has been in place for over twenty years (whereby the OSC facility is controlled by a separate corporation on whose board the City of Vaughan has two representatives) has served the interests of the people of Vaughan well. To replace that arrangement with a so-called Facility Management Committee, whose sole responsibility would be to "provide consultation" in a number of areas, does not constitute sufficient local control of the Soccer Centre.

Any why is that important? Let me remind you that:

1. Since 1996, the taxpayers of the City of Vaughan have been the guarantors of the loan that permitted the creation of the Centre, and of the re-negotiated loan that supports its continued operation. In short, the local community has been the back-stop for the Centre for more than two decades.
2. The Centre is located on provincial lands that are leased to the City of Vaughan and subleased in turn to the Soccer Centre. The transfer of the sub-lease to a separate corporation on whose board the City will have no representation is a step backward in terms of local input on the operation of the Centre.
3. The five Vaughan clubs, taken together, are the greatest single users of the facility---over 25% of the permitted time. In addition, other clubs, based in or outside Vaughan, but with the bulk of their members being Vaughan residents, use about 40% of the permitted time.

The proposed amalgamation will reduce the say of the local community---the people who guarantee the loan and pay the bulk of the fees that constitute the Centre's principal revenue stream.

Reducing their say in the operation of the Centre is not acceptable.

**We strongly advise that you vote against adoption of the recommendations contained in this report, and leave the operation of the facility in the hands of an un-amalgamated Soccer Centre (Ontario).**

Sincerely yours,



Tony Barbieri  
President  
York Region Soccer Association