

My name is Jim Davis and I'm from district 12, I mean ward 3 but it seems like the hunger games when we have to fight for what we need. I posted the question on the face book groups I belong to in ward 3 asking why kids don't play organized sports in our ward 3? The two main reasons were availability and affordability and I'm here today to talk about this.

For a decade now we have been told Pinky Louis will receive a new gymnasium. As we wait, we have seen Westmount Rec centre, Mohawk 4plex and Billy Sherring Park constructed on the mountain, in fact in the last 25 years we have seen most of the rec centres and sports facilities built on the mountain and very little for the lower city. I feel the city should tweak its new slogan to, Hamilton, a good place to raise a child, provided it's on the mountain.

Is it a coincidence that most of the poverty is in the lower city and this is why our facilities are disappearing? You can't expect people in the lower city to pay the same as people on the mountain or Westdale and Rosedale for that matter. If the city ran sports out of its facilities, it can offset the cost to play. Where a lower city child might pay \$50 for hockey, a child in Ancaster may pay \$125. At the end of the year, it's the city paying the overhead to run these facilities and it evens out. This can be done with rec centre memberships and outdoor sports as well where the overhead is a weekly grass cutting.

Is it the lack of space why the lower city hasn't seen any new sport facilities? Sanford school came down, the city rolled out the grass, put up some goalpost and said here, some green space because there's no leagues attached to this soccer pitch. We now have space for Pinky's new Gym and yet we haven't seen any plans or start dates for this facility. Now we have Scott Park. I have provided a plan that utilizes this space to its fullest, showing all the sport facilities can fit on this land, including a football field and an arena is also shown, something the city didn't want to replace. I'd like to point out, the east mountain alone has 9 city owned ice pads, mountain arena with 2 pads in behind, Inch Park, Lawfield and Mohawk 4 plex while the lower city has 3. With the lack of arenas in the lower city, kids are forced to play elsewhere and some of them have to bus it to get to games and practices or they don't play. By creating these facilities at Scott Park,

gets sports started faster in ward 3 and gives the city more time to develop Dom Glass property. Like the commercial says, leave no kid behind.

I have shown you what the problem is, why the problem exist and how it can be fixed. Now it's up to the city and school board to work together and create the solution.