

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Friday, March 16, 2018 - 12:52 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Healthy & Safe Communities (Previously
Emergency & Community Services)

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Mike Spadafora

Name of Organization: Hamilton Huskies

Contact Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Hamilton

Reason(s) for delegation request:

The Vision of the City of Hamilton is to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully. The fundamental "Charter of Rights" of any person residing in Canada is (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association. While Recreational and Female hockey players enjoy freedom of association, Male Representative Hockey Players in the City of Hamilton do not have Freedom of Association and are restricted by boundaries.

The purpose of our delegation is to request the Council's support in our journey (that began in October 2016) to improve/change the Hockey Structure in the City of Hamilton and create a better hockey experience for the participant.

Furthermore, we want to promote an environment of Inclusion and Diversity by allowing participants access to any hockey programme in the City that best meets their individual family needs. The Ice Users Affiliation Agreement with the City of Hamilton is for each association to provide children and youth the opportunity to play to the level (recreational to elite) of their capability and interest within an organized and safe minor sport system and each organization will be Hamilton-based; the mandate of the organization is to serve Hamilton children and youth; 95% of estimated participants are to be City of Hamilton residents. The current representative hockey structure is restrictive/non inclusive and does not allow all participants to play their level of capability. The Associations in the delegation want to honour our obligations under the Ice Users Agreement however the OHF, OMHA and Alliance Hockey fail to recognize the "New" City of Hamilton and are not working efficiently together or with the Associations to create an inclusive environment for male hockey participants in the City. The hockey structure that exists today does not reflect the new city and is outdated and in dire need for change. The current structure does allow the Associations to be inclusive to all City hockey participants.

If you review recent articles where the Spectator indicated only 1 and 10 Hamilton kids are playing hockey change is needed to the Hockey Structure in Hamilton. It's now time to remove boundaries, and restrictions and all male and female hockey participants should equally have the freedom of association (Recreational and Representative) to any program in the City that

best meets their needs in terms of safety, economics, costs, long term development, time, access to rinks, fun, overall enjoyment of the game, playing with friends and family, consistency with all other recreational activities in the city and the overall best hockey experience. Whether you are a participant in the OMHA or Alliance should not be the determinant where you play in the City. Let the participant and the family determine where the best hockey experience is for their needs in the City of Hamilton.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes