



February 12, 2019

Janet Philon
Acting City Clerk
City Hall, 1st Floor
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Ms. Philon:

Delegation request to present to General Issues Committee on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

Following the election a handful of community leaders representing Sport Hamilton, McMaster University, the private sector as well as other notable not-for-profit and public sector institutions have assembled with the singular goal of bringing the 2030 Centennial Commonwealth Games back to Hamilton, the founding city of the first games - then called the British Empire Games. A collective of individuals from these various organizations have also recently attended a Commonwealth Games briefing organized by Sport Canada that outlined the criteria, process and format of bidding for and potentially hosting the 2030 Games. Our community coalition feels very confident in our ability to impressively bid – and win – the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

At some point next month it would be a privilege and honour to have the opportunity to speak before council at a General Issues Committee meeting to share our team's recent explorations (the March 20th date would be ideal, if that is possible). During this delegation we would specifically outline our local group's plans to explore the self-financing of a potential games bid as well as the development of a business plan which would include alignment with the City of Hamilton, the other levels of government, and a robust public and private sector partnership to cover the costs of hosting the games. This potential "Once-in-Forever" project could transform the city and provide a lasting legacy that the community would enjoy for generations (including even before the games themselves begin). The economic, social and cultural benefits would be unprecedented, as this opportunity would replace aging community infrastructure with new sport infrastructure (that would make Hamilton a sport tourism destination 52-weeks of the year), it would provide solutions for long-term affordable housing needs, and it would elevate Hamilton's national and international profile in a manner that has never happened before.

It has been over 25 years since Canada last hosted the Commonwealth Games so many international partners have publicly shared that it truly is Canada's turn to host. We have studied the successes and shortcomings of previous games bids and have analyzed what needs to be in place to be successful with both the bidding and then the hosting of the games themselves. Our coalition is eager to demonstrate to city council our community coalition's ability to successfully bid on the Centennial Commonwealth Games.

Hamilton is to the Commonwealth Games as Athens is to the Olympics, so we are committed to making "Hamilton 100" a reality in the city that had the courage and vision of creating the very first British Empire Games. We are the city that introduced to the world at those inaugural games the very first sports podium, the first Athletes' village and the first time volunteerism existed at international games. We truly believe that this is "History Worth Repeating", so together with all Canadians we hope to welcome the Commonwealth Games back home – on the very same grounds of the first set of games - to celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. J. Mercanti".

P. J. Mercanti
Hamilton 100