

**From:** Dan Jelly  
**Sent:** August 7, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Commonwealth Games Bid

Please add the following correspondence to the August 10th GIC meeting:

Dear members of Council,

The part that bothers me most about this insultingly-timed Commonwealth Games Bid is that we're already going to have to go hat-in-hand to upper levels of government for serious help over the next several years. While other cities will be asking for money for housing, mass transit, road repairs, flood and storm mitigation and public health shortfalls due to the pandemic, are we actually going to ask for \$800 million for an 11 day party? However you view Hamilton's priorities, these games are not where we should be focusing our limited slice of Provincial and Federal dollars. To ask for this money now (or perhaps ever) would be shameful and embarrassing. We would deserve to get laughed out of the room.

Every time one of these bids comes along, promises are made and promises are broken. Housing gets built and then much of it gets sold off to cover cost overruns. Venues are left with legacy costs and repair bills due to hasty construction. It's always the municipality that ends up holding the bill. The (perpetual, ongoing) Pan Am Stadium fiasco would seem to be an appropriate local example. Our \$3.3 Billion infrastructure deficit and unexpected COVID-19 shortfalls would seem to indicate that we can't afford this, and we all know it's magical thinking that this will somehow not impact the tax levy.

So why are we here? Why is so much time being spent even considering this? I've yet to meet a single Hamiltonian who supports this, apart from those few already-wealthy people who stand to make money from the Commonwealth Games. I can tell they're wealthy because some of them have made some fairly large donations to many of your electoral campaigns over the years.

Perhaps I've answered my own question.

Thanks for reading,  
Dan Jelly