

April 21, 2022

To whom it may concern:

Every young athlete dreams of becoming professional in their particular sport. For a few this dream becomes a reality through time, discipline and leadership. I am one of those fortunate athletes who made it to the top.

I was born in Ancaster and began playing soccer at age 4. My soccer career led me to compete for Team Canada in three World Cup final tournaments and the Olympic Games in Beijing, 2008, London, 2012 and Rio, 2016.

The sport of soccer is so important to young people today. Unlike hockey and football for example, it is a sport one can play with very little equipment. What soccer does require however is a relatively large playing field. As housing intensification has grown in recent years, the availability of these playing fields is dwindling.

Sports for young people leads to good health, a boost in brain power, lessons of teamwork and sportsmanship, social skills, focusing and managing your time and the leadership so prized in the workplace today.

Any elimination of the ability to play sports will directly affect society in the long run. The severance of the Ancaster High School soccer fields leading to the sale of this land to developers in my opinion will lead to a shortage of fields to play on, forcing teams to be sidelined while waiting for other fields to be available. Because soccer is a burgeoning sport in Canada, more fields are needed now, not less!

I'm appealing as an Olympic soccer competitor to all committees of the City of Hamilton, the city councilors and the school trustees to ensure the availability of these playing fields for years to come by any means necessary. In particular, I say to the school trustees who want to sever this land, education is found not only in the classroom, but on the fields as well. As trustees you are responsible to the community you serve for all facets of a child's education and this certainly includes recreational and competitive sports. Please save these fields!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Tancredi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Melissa Tancredi