

Deputation to Markham Council regarding MSECC, December 2, 2013

Peter Miasek

President, Unionville Ratepayer's Association

C:\URA-MSECCDeputation2013-12-02

URA has closely followed the Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre since it was first proposed in early 2012. This is a very important issue to us, including the fact that it is in our ward and we would feel the major impacts, both good and bad, if it were built. In the Fall of 2012 we conducted an electronic member survey. On November 19, 2012, we followed our formal process and held a members' meeting and super-majority vote to develop an Official Position: *"The URA is strongly opposed to any involvement by the City of Markham in the ownership, development and financing of the MSECC."*

This position was developed at a time when the financial framework had the City borrowing \$325M, to be paid for by GTA Centre LP, voluntary developer contributions and a variety of other sources. Although it was discussed, URA did not take an Official Position, one way or the other, on whether we supported the Centre as a good development under a private sector development.

The URA Board of Directors has been following the recent changes to the proposed financial framework with interest, including the information released in October and on Friday Nov 29 and Saturday Nov 30, 2013. We note that the new framework is significantly different and may or may not reduce the City's financial risk. Our local councillor, Don Hamilton, and other councillors indicated a willingness on Friday to give the parties more time to negotiate. We recognize that the current MOU's require much more work to convert them to final agreements.

The URA Board feels that this work on these agreements should continue.

The URA Board has decided that the changes in the proposed framework are large enough that we should bring the matter back to our members to decide if our Official Position should be revised or amplified. We would do this as soon as the details are firmed up, but not before January at the earliest.

So we urge the City to continue work on the final agreements, and we commit to bringing them before our members when ready. We want to extend our thanks to both Graeme Roustan and Andy Taylor for being open, accessible, and available for meetings in the past. And we are pleased that both Graeme and Andy have indicated that they will continue to be available in the future.