

Your worship, members of Council, City Staff My name is Mike Gannon, and I represent Unionville Ratepayers Association, within whose area the proposed Arena will be located.

Lets be clear, the issue is the financial framework, not the Arena. A vote against the financial framework is not a vote against the Arena! Our members, and the many other residents who have expressed concerns, are clearly focussed on a bad financial deal! We are not trying to attack our national sport! We simply cannot accept that it is necessary for residents to be on the hook for a \$325 million loan. If Bob the Builder and all his buddies who took out that ad in the Economist and Sun think its such a great project, then let them pay for it! Or any other private group, let them pay for it, just not the taxpaying residents of Markham.

Lets just quickly recap some of the key risks involved...Remember we hold the \$325 loan!

1. Who happens if the project is not a commercial success, or the operators declare bankruptcy, or they fail to get an NHL team?
2. Who happens if the proposal to fund some portion of the loan with voluntary development charges is challenged, and who pays if builders want their money back?
3. What if the proposed partner is found to be not qualified, after due diligence is finally performed, more than 2 years after this project was started?

These are real, financial risks, and as yet there is no risk mitigation plan, because with this financial framework, there can be no risk mitigation! Listen up guys! It's a lousy deal. Period!

Now, if there are still any councillors who do not understand those risks, or perhaps feel that they will not occur, lets look at this financial framework another way. Does it smell right? Does it feel right?

The way this program has been run reminds me of the carnival game Whackamole! You know the one, where you have to keep whacking moles as they pop up. This particular game of political Whackamole started in April 2011, when council voted on a financial framework committing residents to \$325 million of risk. There was very little real information, and Councilors had no time to consult their residents.

Whoosh!!!! Oh? The first mole pops up! Residents want more information? Quick guys, lets throw together some open houses with whatever information we do have, lets explain the deal, anybody got any slides that explain the financial framework? No? Lets use Mike Gannon's. Whack! Phew, that's sorted then!

Whoosh!!! No, not that financial framework issue again, residents cant be expected to understand, this time lets just say its very complicated, takes a lot of time and promise them an MOU!

Whack! (Is that old MOU mole still in there somewhere? Seems to be asleep)

Whoosh!!! Now what? Councillors want to read those secret reports that we paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for. Oh, So sorry, its not allowed, the solicitor says so. Whack!

Whoosh!! Up it comes again, lets put the reports in the library and only allow those with a key to read them, but they are not allowed to copy them! Whack!

Whoosh!, This mole has nine lives, now some councillors want to actually perform real due diligence, because its not in the reports? Lets just keep putting that one off until the next council meeting, the next DSC, lets go in camera again, and the next one after that, and..... Whack!

Whoosh!!! Oh! Councillor Jones is actually doing due diligence. Graham? Next thing you know, Jonesey gets a threatening cease and desist lawyer's letter! Whack!

By the way, having been personally involved in several PPPs, sending threatening lawyers letters to your partners is not one of the more common indicators of a successful partnership.

Whoosh!! Resident associations are strongly against the financial framework, residents are running surveys, signing petitions, residents are packing the council chambers, all against the financial framework. We do have that Feedback button on the City website, but dare we share that information? Lets do our own survey, Delvinia will do it, lets

allow any GTA resident to be able to answer it. They don't have to pay for the Arena, therefore they will be some supporters out there, outside Markham,

Wack! That mole has not popped up again either!

Karen?

So, Councillors, does this smell right to you? Even if you do not understand, or are not sure about the very real financial risks, does it feel like the kind of successful program you want to be associated with? Ask yourself, is it well thought out, properly planned, appropriately funded, does it come with qualified partners, does it fit into your vision of a Downtown Markham, and is it resident supported.

Members of council, its time to hit the reset button on this deal. Rescind this financial framework, and start over with a properly planned and executed program that fits into a clear vision for Downtown Markham. This does not mean you are voting against an Arena, it does not mean you are anti hockey, it's a vote for common sense and financial good management.

Never before have the residents of Markham been so engaged and involved in opposition to a municipal proposal.

Whoosh! Whoosh!!! Whoooshh!

Next moles popping up will be Mayors and Councillors at the next election, who did not listen to their residents. Whack!