

Birrell, Sheila

From: DONALD HILL JR [qube@rogers.com]

Sent: Friday, April 27, 2007 8:59 AM

To: Scarpitti, Frank

Cc: dalton.mcquinty@premier.gov.on.ca; john@johnmccallum.ca; mchan.mpp@liberal.ola.org; Virgilio, Joseph; Nanninga, Barbara; Birrell, Sheila; Wiles, Bill

Subject: "Basketball hoops must come down"

*General Letter -
Ref. to the Town Clerk
& the Director of
Operations & Asset
Management*

Dear Mayor Scarpitti,

I had the pleasure of speaking with you last weekend at Michael Chan's open house. I was telling you about a visit our neighbourhood had by a by-law officer. He went to all the homes in the area that had basketball nets and told the residents they had to be taken away from the road or taken down. The family across the street with 3 young boys took their net away from the road (approx 2 weeks) and it has not been up since, instead they come home from school and watch TV. The by-law officer when asked if he was operating on any directive or complaint said "no I am taking proactive initiative". I believe with all the provincial efforts to get kids healthy and exercising and the issues we face with youth crime, I think it is ill advised for the city to be taking such unwarranted action. Especially when none of these hoops are in the road, they are all located on the boulevard. My son Brodie had the pleasure of meeting you that day, he is becoming an accomplished player by any standard. If his hoop has to come down he will no longer be able to spend his time productively developing his skills, but likely end up at the mall. I don't think this type of activity will lead to anything we would consider productive.

The name of the by-law officer **ALEXANDER SPASEWSKI**, a nice enough young man but not likely old enough to be knowledgeable on the issues of keeping youth engaged, productive and healthy. I have to spoken to parties at the city, the provincial and federal representatives offices and the actions of Mr. Spasewski have gotten little support. I have also spent time speaking to numerous local individuals I interact within my different volunteer and basketball coaching efforts. The support in my effort to have this initiative stopped has been very encouraging. We have a large number of people waiting to hear the cities perspective so we can determine what our next efforts should be, we anxiously await your response. Thank you for your time and on behalf of my son Brodie and myself it was nice to meet everyone and we appreciate the many great things you are doing for the people of Markham.

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