



Thornhill Figure Skating Club  
300 John St., THORNHILL, Ontario, L3T 7R4  
February 12, 2016

Valerie Burke  
Ward 1 Councillor  
City of Markham

Dear Ms. Burke,

We are writing to draw your attention to the potentially negative impact that our Club could face with the recent proposal in changes to the ice allocation formula within the City of Markham.

The Thornhill Figure Skating Club (TFSC) has over 40 years of history within the City of Markham. In the 2015-2016 season thus far, we have over 405 skaters who are Markham residents attend our programs. TFSC offers all levels of skating programs ranging from recreational to competitive figure skating for children as young as 3 years old to adults.

Our CanSkate program is amongst one the most popular learn-to-skate programs in Markham which attracts hundreds of young children to learn and practice skating. All the participants enjoy the creative learning environment and great fun to be had outside of their school hours.

TFSC also offers competitive figure skating programs for all age groups. All the skaters really enjoy advance learning with Skate Canada certified coaches. These programs create a valuable training ground for those who are talented and/or determined to pursue competitive figure skating. In the last several years, TFSC has developed an impressive number of provincial and national competitors and champions. For the first time ever, we have a national Novice Woman Champion and international competitors as members of our Club. This achievement could not be reached without all the endeavors from the skaters and their families, coaches and support of ice time from TFSC. This is all directly correlated to our availability of skating hours for practice at 7-days a week.





With all of these factors in consideration, we believe it is of paramount importance for all levels of skaters to access our programs, especially those during the after school hours. With the latest proposal on ice allocation, we are facing a potential for reduced ice rink hours for the Club which would negatively affect our ability to serve the residents of Markham. This will seriously impact Markham community members (ie. the skaters) and their accessibility to our programs.

In summary, TFSC is very proud to be a unique facility which offers both recreational and figure skating to its community members. We rely on the City of Markham's ice allocation support to provide a broad range of quality programs to the residents of Markham and beyond. We strongly hope that you can give more consideration into the matter of ice allocation, especially in light of the uniqueness of our programs, the achievements/recognition that our skaters have brought to the City of Markham as well as the economic benefits that our convenient location has brought to the City when our members come to the Club for their programs. A decision to allow the TFSC to maintain or increase its existing ice time within the Thornhill Community Centre would help the Club support its programming.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach us at (905) 881-6411. Thank you for your attention into this matter.

Best Regards,

Board of Directors  
Thornhill Figure Skating Club

Subject:

FW: General Committee Meeting Feb 16 2016 22.ICE ALLOCATION POLICY REVISION  
(6.1)

February 16 2016

Dear Mr. Frank Scarpitti and Members of Council

**We respectfully request that 22. ICE ALLOCATION POLICY REVISION  
(6.1) Scheduled for Today's General Committee Meeting be Deferred for the  
following reasons.**

We are not pleased with the vagueness of the process and believe it's premature to bring forth the presentation to General Committee Meeting February 16 2016.

We are not in support and believe that full transparency has not been evident. The Presentation that has been presented to the General Committee is not the same as the Presentation that we received on November 15th 2015.

You suggested that the formula is for demonstration purposes but no where in the presentation does it indicate that. This does not reflect full transparency.

We are skeptical because of the following-

On Nov 15, the initial ice reduction for Markham Islanders was 6 hours, now it's over 8 hours, a significant increase in excess of 30%. This compares to other clubs or groups that are not experiencing same level of deterioration in ice allocation.

We have repeatedly said that L4J must be applied to Markham Islanders. This is only fair in our estimation as it currently and singularly benefits Thornhill hockey club. We have over 28 residents of L4J in our club. Including L4J into Markham Islanders Hockey Club allocation would reduce our 6 hours a week November 15 allocation to just over 3 hours a week.

In as much as L4J situation remains murky, we are being unfairly discriminated in that over 700 Markham residents play in GTHL but we are only being credited for 225 that play in our club.

Concerning the Markham Waxers, the intended use is not in sync with the actual use. You note that no additional ice has been allocated for new programs but the Waxers are using existing time (meaning they have extra ice in the current allocation mechanism) for a different purpose, that being a new program. This, in our opinion, contravenes the spirit of the allocation mechanism.  
Sincerely,

Randy Jacobs  
General Manager  
Markham Islanders-Majors