

November 4, 2024

Richard Fearing

[REDACTED]

Cambridge, Ontario [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To:

Jan Liggett, Mayor

Cambridge City Hall

50 Dickson Street

Cambridge, ON N1R 8S1

Re: Request for Basketball Court at Green Gate Park

1. My name is Richard Fearing, and I reside at [REDACTED] in Cambridge. Since moving here in September 2022, my family and I have faced ongoing issues related to our efforts to let our son play basketball in our neighborhood. I am writing to formally request that a basketball court be installed at Green Gate Park to support our community's youth and to help address tensions that have arisen due to the lack of proper recreational facilities.

Background and 2023 Incidents

2. Shortly after moving in, my son expressed interest in basketball, so we bought him a hoop. Initially, there were no issues until my son's friends began joining him. A neighbor across the street quickly raised concerns, requesting that we remove the hoop. I assured

them I would cover any incidental damages, but the issue escalated with bylaw tickets and even police involvement, although the bylaw officer confirmed that children could legally play on the street.

2024 Escalations and Lawsuit

3. In 2024, we tried to mitigate tensions by moving the hoop to a neighbor's driveway. Unfortunately, conflicts continued to arise. The neighbor directly across from me called another resident, escalating hostilities to the point where physical confrontations nearly occurred. I ultimately moved the hoop to a different street, only for bylaw to again be called, while others in the neighborhood faced no restrictions.

4. In response to the escalating conflicts, I filed a lawsuit in small claims court against the neighbor across the street, as he placed a video camera directed at my property, including my bedroom, allegedly to monitor any basketball activity. The neighbor claims this was done on police advice to document potential damage, but the camera's presence has only intensified neighborhood tensions. I believe that if a basketball court were available at Green Gate Park, these issues would not have arisen, as there would be a designated place for the children to play basketball as long as there are enough hoops to play on.

Community Impact and Need for a Basketball Court

5. This experience has highlighted the need for a dedicated space for children to safely play basketball. Within weeks of moving the hoop, we had nearly 30 children from the neighborhood gathering to play. A basketball court in Green Gate Park would address this demand, providing a safe and appropriate area for recreation, and preventing further disputes that drain city resources through bylaw enforcement, police involvement, and potential legal actions.

6. This request is made not only for my family but for the well-being of the entire Green Gate community. A dedicated basketball court would allow children to play safely away from

street traffic and reduce neighborhood conflicts, providing a positive outlet for youth activity.

7. Thank you for considering this proposal, which I believe would be a positive step in fostering a harmonious and active community.

8. I wish to speak further on the matter at your next upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Fearing". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard Fearing