

## Michael Oliveri

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**From:** Leanne Ratford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 3:43 PM  
**To:** E\_Clerks; Scott Hamilton  
**Subject:** Request for Greengate Park Basketball Court

### **This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender**

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Good day,

I am writing to you in regards of the upcoming discussions and budget proposal for the Green Gate Basketball court.

It has become critical for the city to integrate the ability for our youth to have outlets to play. Specifically youth from families that perhaps can't afford extra curricular activities. As we know this very trend is becoming more and more common in families these across the city.

My husband and I have undertaken putting a regulation basketball net at the end of our driveway because of ongoing conflicts with kids playing basketball on the street with our neighbours and within our neighbourhood. The only SAFE place for the kids to currently place basketball is at our home on Green Gate Blvd.

These children include well mannered youth between the ages of 8-16 years of age, primarily Black, Hispanic and Asian kids. Why I included the age and race of these children is because these children will be the same ones stigmatized being "up to no good" if wandering around the neighbourhood. Instead these dedicated athletes meet at our house on a daily basis to play basketball. There could be upwards of 15-20 kids there playing daily and often seen different friend groups coming by and playing with others. Not included in those kids playing are my children who are 8 & 5 however they would happily include them if they chose to play.

The problem remains is although I don't mind advocating for these children by trying to integrate our own basketball net, the fact remains the City of Cambridge has done nothing as of yet to support the youth in this area of Cambridge and it has done in numerous other areas.

We have the lands that would support the infrastructure of a basketball court and I can tell you based on the population in our immediate area it would be widely used. Green Gate Park should set an example of what it looks like for young athletes to have access to play.

It is HIGHLY discouraging to see the City Of Cambridge continue to approve development, but yet do not include a plan on where and how the children of those new development can safely play.

The sports complex should not even be remotely considered in this matter as this is a real issue that directly impacts our current minority youth right now.

Counsel we kindly ask for support in assisting these children of minority to have a positive place to play ball, now and for the future.

Thank you,

Leanne Ratford  
Green Gate Blvd Resident