

Claude Berthiaume  
Councillor, Ward 2 / Conseiller, Quartier 2



February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

Mayor Courtemanche and Members of City Council:

Mr. Mayor and Fellow Councillors:

**RE: Council Agenda- February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006  
Presentation concerning the Multi-Use Centre**

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I have asked that this letter be read on my behalf this evening, as I am unable to attend this Council meeting due to my recent hospitalization. I would like to voice my opposition to the Multi-Use Centre, as I feel it is premature to consider this item, particularly as roads have been this Council's priority.

I do not recall any Member of Council bringing this issue forward during the last election, nor over the course of this term. The proponents of this project should raise this issue over the course of the next election, if they feel strongly about it. I feel that providing \$250,000 in funding at this time would be considered a commitment on our part, and would make it quite difficult to back out once that type of money has been committed.

We are having a difficult time supporting the facilities we presently have, therefore adding an extra facility is simply not feasible. Taxpayers would definitely end up subsidizing this facility, as is the case with other cities. Multi-use facilities are not self-sustaining and always face an operating deficit. Once we are in a position where we can adequately maintain our existing facilities, such as painting the exterior of the Chelmsford arena, then perhaps we can entertain the possibility of a new facility in this City.

The idea of a multi-use centre initially came to the GSDC when a local church was looking to share facilities, but my understanding is that they are no longer seeking such an arrangement. It is also my understanding that this proposal was rejected by the previous Council because of the costs involved in such a plan.

If it is a profitable venture, I say let the private sector do it.

Yours sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claude Berthiaume'.

Claude Berthiaume  
Councillor Ward 2  
CB:md