

Memorandum

Residential Development on the site of the Former Philosophy College

Dawson Community Blues was founded in 1973 by Joel Tyrrell, a young Concordia student. As a non-profit community organization, its purpose is to provide Montreal youths, particularly in the intercity areas of borough Ville Marie, with an opportunity to further their athletic endeavours through participation in an elite basketball league. In addition it focuses directly on staying in school and maintaining academic standards as a means to future success. Currently there are seven teams, boys and girls, ranging in age from 9-17 with a total of over 105 kids directly and seriously involved. There are plans to expand with 2 additional teams next year.

Dawson Community began to use the old Marionopolis sports complex (currently referred to as the Annexe) 6 years ago while the facility was still run by the CEGEP Marionopolis. Over the last 2 years the use has expanded and this not for profit community program has been using the facility daily from September-June for the last 2 years. This has enabled a significant expansion with the involvement of more children now and in the future. The facility also has classroom space allowing tutoring to occur both before and after practice.

The city of Montreal has for several years promised additional sports facilities for the downtown core, i.e. the Ville Marie borough. The promise has been precisely to provide sports facilities for kids at risk and in need. The Dawson Community Blues is a perfect example of a program for the community, run by community volunteers (all the coaches are non-parent volunteers giving back to their community). The organizers of this program can and will point out the existence of the ideal property, the Annexe. The facility exists, is in excellent condition and is located right in the heart of Montreal where a sports facility is badly needed.

The Dawson Community would request that the Ville de Montreal immediately purchase the Annexe and turn it into the sports and recreational facility for the borough in order for the Dawson Community Blues and other organizations to help our youth grow into healthy productive members of our society.

By purchasing the Annexe there is no delay in the availability to organizations that depend on these facilities. Failing the ability to purchase the property the Ville de Montreal should immediately propose to continue to operate the facility until an equivalent facility can be built. As this requires no zoning or bylaw changes and respects both the original intent of the facility and all current restrictions on properties on the mountain there are no barriers to this plan.

Dawson Community respectfully believes that it is the obligation of the Ville de Montreal to provide for the future of our youth and the Annexe as a community center directly speaks to this.

Submitted by

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Dawson Community Blues Basketball Program

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Coach
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