



May 31, 2019

Dear:

Mr. Mark Goudie, Chief Executive Officer, Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG)

Dr. Benoit-Antoine Bacon, President, Carleton University

Mme Suzanne Blanchard, Vice-President, Students and Enrollment, Carleton University

**Re : Panda Game 2019**

As Chair of the Sandy Hill Town and Gown committee, and as President of Sandy Hill's community association, we are writing to ask for your participation in a measure to mitigate the highly negative effects of the Carleton Ravens vs. Ottawa GeeGees Panda Game.

In recent years, due in part to its early Saturday afternoon kick-off time, the Panda Game has drawn huge crowds from both universities, as well as from outside the Ottawa university communities. The behaviour has been wholly unacceptable, and has included property damage, harassment of residents, trespassing, urinating on private property etc. The Sandy Hill community finds itself requiring additional measures be put in place to mitigate the disruptive behaviour associated with Panda Game pre and post celebrations. With a large, concentrated of student population, residents of Sandy Hill are faced with significant challenges during these Panda Game celebrations.

As Ottawa's Sport Commissioner, I recognize how important the Panda Game is for Carleton University, for the University of Ottawa, for OSEG, and for alumni and students in Ottawa. However, as the Councillor for Ward 12, I need to alert you to the costly measures that the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police have been forced to shoulder to mitigate this event in Sandy Hill.

A study by the City's Special Events Advisory Team of the causes of the safety and damages suffered by the residents pointed to a number of causes. Its representative raised the possibility that the City may be in a position to refuse a permit for the Panda Game, due to its negative impacts.





We recognize that measures have already been proposed and taken to attract attendees to the venue and reduce disruptive behaviour. However, they have not proven to be effective over the last few years. Instead, we propose that holding the game on Friday evening, may prevent negative behaviour in the community and reduce the costly measures the City and Ottawa Police have had to undertake in the past.

Therefore, we are formally asking OSEG and Carleton University to agree to move the Panda Game to a weekday evening, as a trial for 2019. We understand the University of Ottawa is willing to do so, and wish to recognize its efforts and willingness to contribute to meaningful engagement, investments and involvement to deal with this situation.

We look forward to your positive response to this request, and your solidarity with the City and residents of Ottawa.

Sincerely,

**Mathieu Fleury**  
**City Councillor | Conseiller municipal**  
Chair, Sandy Hill Town and Gown  
Committee  
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CC: Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa  
Uday Jaswal and Steve Bell, Deputy Chiefs, Ottawa Police Service  
Jacques Frémont, President, University of Ottawa  
Michel Guilbeault, Associate Vice President, Student Life, University of Ottawa  
Steve Kanekallos, City Manager, City of Ottawa  
Amanda Mullins, Special Events Advisory Team, City of Ottawa  
Members, Sandy Hill Town & Gown Committee  
Board of Directors, Action Sandy Hill