

Dear President Fremont (University of Ottawa);  
Interim President Tomberlin (Carleton University);  
President and Chief Executive Officer Goudie;  
and Interim City Manager Stephanson (City of Ottawa),

Action Sandy Hill (ASH) was incredibly disappointed to learn that a post-Panda Game event is being planned for the Sandy Hill Arena. We oppose our community becoming host to a post-Panda event given the past damage, especially since this was done without any prior consideration or consultation. Instead, we ask that another venue (such as on university campus) be selected. We ask this because residents have faced harassment, had their lives disrupted, and had property damaged by students and others who have engaged in post-Panda activities in previous years. The proposed post-Panda event, which will include alcohol, will end at 11pm and is immediately adjacent to the area of the neighborhood that has witnessed some of the most problematic behavior.

Sandy Hill is home to thousands of residents, including alumni, students and faculty members of both University of Ottawa and Carleton. When ASH reached out to its members and the Sandy Hill community over our mailing list, social media, and neighborhood conversations, the reaction was very negative. For some examples of the feedback we received in writing, please see the attached Annex.

Several residents expressed fear and anxiety based on several years where individuals have taken the opportunity of the Panda game as an invitation for unlawful and disrespectful behaviour. Residents and past reporting have documented events such as harassment, bottles being thrown at residents and officers, public intoxication, lewd behaviour, dangerous crowding, property damage and public urination/defecation. These activities, which have occurred consistently during the night after the Panda game, not only harm the community, but embarrass and tarnish the reputation of both universities and college sports.

We also note that previous years have seen extremely dangerous behaviour by some individuals attending post-Panda events such as car flipping and climbing of hydro poles. These activities are dangerous and disturbing to residents, as well as to the individuals who are participating. We fear that by not taking strong action to address this issue, our neighborhood will inevitably become the scene of a tragedy.

What ASH wants is for the four primary stakeholders to take proper responsibility for the unacceptable behaviour associated with post-Panda and the impact it has on the community. We

are appreciative that the stakeholders have finally acknowledged the impact by planning for post-Panda with a sanctioned event, however, we must ask that it not be held directly in the community that has so frequently been harmed. We ask that the sanction post-Panda event instead be moved onto campus or another location out of respect for the Sandy Hill community.

Sincerely,

The Action Sandy Hill Board of Directors

Attachments (1)

cc: Stephanie Plante, Ward 12 Councillor;  
Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor of Ottawa;  
CBC / Radio-Canada; and  
Ottawa Citizen.