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Citizen

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I am a member of the Milton-Parc Citizens Committee, and was active along with many others in developing the ideas in the brief which you have heard this evening. I won't repeat the ideas expressed therein.

I want to just enlarge on one particular point: namely that many residents in this greater Milton-Parc neighbourhood are fearful that the enlarged Molson Stadium will be used for large and noisy events beyond the sports events that are currently scheduled. Why is this of such concern?

You may well answer, sympathetically, that you can understand why residents would not like more noise, larger crowds of people pouring out of the stadium more frequently, and perhaps even, more individuals relieving themselves in our lanes.

But what if this increased aggravation causes a few people to say they've had enough and move out? And what if we reach a tipping point when this comfortable residential neighbourhood starts to change?

Well, what if?

What I want to say is that such a situation is not unpleasant only for a few residents who may become fed up. Those of us who are speaking here this evening are not a handful of whiners who are only concerned about their discomfort. We are concerned about the social health of our city.

Montréal is a safe, vibrant and comfortable city; and a major reason is that scattered *everywhere* in the city are residential neighbourhoods; large areas where people live, work nearby, shop and recreate often within walking or cycling distance.

The Milton-Parc community located right next to downtown is one of these neighbourhoods. And who benefits? We do, to be sure; but so does every citizen in the greater Montréal area.

Who are these citizens: those from the West Island who come downtown to dine, and walk safely through the neighbourhood to and from their parked cars or from the Métro; those of University level who wander everywhere at all hours (sometimes annoyingly!) and who feel safe; those teenagers who pour in and out of Kola Noté and the #80 bus and whose parents know they don't have to worry; those seniors who freely visit each other in their homes or in the mall of La Cité.

This neighbourhood is culturally, socially, and economically vibrant and it is safe – and we all benefit.

So I give a word of warning to the Allouettes, to McGill, to the urban planners of the city, to the elected officials whom we have elected : don't tamper with the health of this neighbourhood, don't spoil it, work with us to protect it!