

A VISION for WARD 9

Community Centre + Library + School

Aditya Aggarwal, Candidate for Councillor, Ward 9, City of Windsor

Ward 9: Vision → Concept → Reality: *Community Centre + Library + School*

There are many opportunities to improve the lives of the residents of Ward 9 in the City of Windsor. Democracy and government, in partnership with residents and businesses, are charged with the task of making daily lives better. Improvements in the quality of life must be achieved in a responsible, efficient, and effective manner - ie with economical, practical solutions that provide services that are in demand. These solutions and amenities must actually attract and service residents with volume and quality proportionate (or greater) than the community's investment. My proposal to deliver missing Community Centre and Library services to Ward 9 is one such solution.

My vision and concept development to date is to integrate by co-locating a new Community Centre and a new Library with the Talbot Trail public school on Ducharme (part of the Windsor-Essex Count District School Board). I have been developing this vision for a little over 2 months and now am receiving a lot of input from over 1,400 door-to-door discussions. The residents often initiate the library and community centre topics themselves. With additional research I discovered that ideas similar to ours align with a popular global movement for '*Community Hubs*' initiatives. This further strengthened our commitment to our integrated Community Centre + Library + School solution. Other progressive cities like Ottawa Carleton and Victoria/Australia have embraced the concept successfully.

Advantages

There are many advantages to the integrated Library + Community Centre + School approach - both intrinsically and when compared to other ideas lacking in vision and practicality. Key advantages my concept include:

- Shared infrastructure - the Library and Community Centre would be able to leverage the school's existing sewage, water, electrical services, parking lot, entrances/exits, fencing, snow plowing etc. These services may need to be expanded but all-new services construction could largely be avoided - this saves money, reduces construction duration, and therefore reduces disruption to the site's neighbours. Additionally access-control (locking / unlocking doors) to the community resources could be shared alleviating current limitations in convenience and practicality of renting such resources.
- Convenience and ease-of-use: With these 3 key community resources located together residents will be able to access more resources with less travel and less time. The concept fosters efficient use by people within the Library, Community Centre, and School ecosystem as well.
- Located Near the Residents drives Usage: The Talbot Trail site is embedded within the community it will serve. It is relatively easy for many kids and adults to walk, bike, bus or drive to the location. This is in sharp contrast to the other 2 ideas which are 'outside' high density residential neighbourhood areas.
- Traffic, Safety and Ease of Access: The 2 other sites are bordered by major roads with major safety and traffic barriers to access and use. This reduces usage right off the top. It is true that Ducharme and Talbot Trail's existing parking lot are extremely busy at times. After conducting a study across weekdays these peak periods are specifically between 8:30a-9:20a and 2:45p-4:15p. A community centre and library's typical usage pattern are outside these peaks making the combination a very efficient planning pairing. Further - on weekends - a peak time for community centre use - there is often little or no traffic at the school representing another efficiency gain.
- Please contact me for additional Advantages at alex4uward9@gmail.com

Next Steps

I (and my campaign team) have reached out, or are planning to reach out to the following organizations and experts in order to further build out the substance of the integrated idea:

- GECD SB (Greater Essex County District School Board), Superintendent of Accommodations
- City of Windsor Recreation & Parks, Planning, Facilities (and specifically the Recreation Master Plan currently under development by a consultant)
- City of Windsor Library, including Bookmobile program
- Transit Windsor
- Ottawa Carleton and other municipalities employing similar strategies
- Ontario Professional Planners including those who provided input to the recent hospital zoning decision.
- Province of Ontario -Savings Incentives and others

Draft comparison of Candidate Proposals

ID#	Criteria	<i>Aggarwal</i> Community Centre+ Library+School	<i>Kieran</i> Devonwood	<i>Payne</i> 42
1	Number of Services Available	✓	✗	✓
2	Close to Residents	✓	✗	✗
3	Easy Access: Walk, Bike, Bus, Drive	✓	✗	✗
4	Disrupt Sensitive Land	No	Yes	✗
5	Access to Natural Space	✗	✗	✗
6	Multiple Service Hub / Synergy	✗	✗	✓
7	Proven Approach	✗	✓	✗
8	Disruption to School	✗	✓	✓
9	Efficiencies of Scale	✓	✗	✓
10	New Build Costs	✗	Low	Very High
11	Operating Costs	✗	✗	✗

Notes

⁽¹⁾ Costs scores are pro-rated to be representative of 1) the number of different services (range) are offered, and 2) the quantity of patrons each service can handle (volum

Please see my campaign website www.ElectAlexWard9.ca for additional information I have built out and for updates to the *Community Centre + Library + School* strategy.

As always, comments, suggestions, and ideas are welcome and encouraged!

Sincerely, ALEX Aggarwal

PS: Please see the following page for ***Community Resource Finder (CRF)*** - an innovative, cost-saving, and convenience-enhancing idea that leverages the many community resources that go unused everyday and night.

An Efficient Idea:

Community Resource Finder (CRF)

We have developed the concept of an online marketplace for community resources (eg. meeting rooms, gyms, banquet/fund raiser halls etc) that reaches across suppliers (eg. City, Schoolboards, Banquet halls, Churches etc) resources to find you the widest choice of available space to rent. Typically you have to go each owner/building one at-a-time to find space. The *CRF* marketplace can integrate with the City's new registration system and the registration systems of the schoolboards as well as assisting Churches, service organizations in 'signing up their space' and 'lowering their vacancy rate'.

CRF will allow existing community resources to be used more efficiently, save residents money and time, and, possibly avoid some unnecessary new construction down the road. Organizations that could see their vacancy rate go way down include:

- City resources (Parks, Libraries)
- Schools
- Churches
- Services (Legion, Rotary,)
- Banquet Halls, Hotels
- and others

This project could be built by senior students in the University's EPICentre and St. Clair's Enactus program with guidance from external experts.

Another platform component of ours is to develop the City into a more welcoming and entrepreneur-friendly destination. To meet this objective and to keep the 'Built-in-Windsor' nature rolling the City could:

- willingly provide controlled access to it's existing reservation systems for development purposes
- expeditiously sign on as a premier CRF customer
- promote the CRF solution to other Cities

Note: We are investigating Province of Ontario tax saving programs available for the *Community Centre + Library + School* and *Community Resource Marketplace* initiatives.