



Media Statement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN ENSURES SAFETY AT BASKETBALL COURTS **Nets removed due to threats of violence, vandalism and late-night** **excessive noise**

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville temporarily removed the basketball nets at Madori Park early in June.

The nets were temporarily removed at the Millard Street park as a result of some disturbing and unwanted activity by some older youth. The Town was aware of ongoing issues and we were actively working on solutions but unfortunately matters escalated and prompted the Town to take action and remove the nets.

“As a parent I understand the importance of local recreational activities for youth, but more important is the safety and wellbeing of those using our facilities and the community,” said the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chief Administrative Officer Rob Adams “Unfortunately, that particular basketball court had a number of incidents that were deemed unsafe.”

Those “unsafe incidents” included excessive amplified noise, basketball games being played beyond midnight, the use of vulgar language and racial slurs, and threats of violence and vandalism to public and private property.

“This type of activity and behaviour cannot be tolerated and will continue to be taken very seriously by the Town,” Adams said. “While we’re working with By-Law and York Regional Police to come up with a strategy to make our park facilities a safe and welcoming environment, staff made the difficult decision to remove the nets.”

The decision was made by staff in conjunction with YRP and was determined to be the best short-term solution to curb this unwanted behavior, Adams stressed.

Council and staff are currently reviewing various options in consultation with YRP, including the potential of establishing a Parks By-law that prohibits activities in Parks and Open Spaces at designated times.

The Town is hopeful to have a satisfactory resolution shortly so the nets can be reinstalled for residents to enjoy.

“We apologize that this decision has negatively impacted other members of the community. I am confident that we will have the nets back up as soon as possible” says Adams.

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