

To: The Niagara Gazette / Editorial Page

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I am a life-long resident of Niagara Falls having lived on the east side for the greater part of my life. My family recently sold our property on 12th Street and I am fully aware of the former 10th Street Park and the facility at 13th and Niagara Street.

I have to agree with Mayor Paul Dyster and the council that whatever is done should make sense for the neighborhood and the Niagara community. Let's face it, there are virtually no families living in the area south of Niagara Street and the East Falls Street area between Portage Road and John Daly Boulevard. It does not make any sense to reoccupy the 13th Street facility because it is unsafe and in desperate need of repair, besides there was not adequate supervision of the kids who played there – leading to many issues. The owners were right to close down the building. The 10th Street Park is a stone's throw from the casino and it is not a good environment for a park to be utilized by our youth.

For too long people outside of our community who neither own a business or are real estate holders in the city are pushing their own agenda. You don't revitalize a district for business and commercial use by starting with development of a residential park and a community-based youth center where there are no users, it is a waste of taxpayer's money.

These outside agitators who are running around talking loud and saying nothing are not a benefit to the community. They do a great disservice to our city by trying to divide the real stakeholders from any real opportunities while alienating elected officials by threatening and harassing them. They still have not talked to the people most affected who have had to move or even asking about how they feel about this situation or should go about it.

Finally, I would request that the city not cave into these intimidation tactics or fall prey to people who think they should run Niagara Falls and don't even live here and are organized from afar. We will not be hoodwinked or bamboozled by outsiders who really don't care what's going on but are driven by their own agenda - whatever that may be.

Sincerely,

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