



Friday, October 12, 2012

Honorable Darlene M. Harris  
President of Council  
City of Pittsburgh  
510 City-County Building  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
15219 USA

Dear Councilwoman Harris:

Thank you for your letter of October 4, 2012. We share your frustration and concern with the owners' unilateral decision to lockout the players, cancel the preseason and now part of the regular season. Far too many people in Pittsburgh and other NHL cities will suffer unnecessarily as a result of their decision. We are currently working to identify small business owners who are affected to see what we can do to help their employees during this unfortunate time.

Unfortunately, the lockout was no surprise. Months ago, the owners made public their intention to lock out the players, and they did so the first chance they legally could. There was nothing the players could have done to prevent it - - other than to agree to the enormous and unwarranted concessions the owners demand. We repeatedly suggested that the owners allow the preseason and season to continue while we negotiated, but they refused to even consider this approach.

The NHL has recorded seven straight seasons of record revenues including an all-time high of \$3.3 billion last year. One month, the NHL is touting its unprecedented success; the next, it is demanding that the players accept deep salary cuts and the evisceration of individual bargaining rights. Simply put, it makes no sense. We are left to conclude that the owners are pursuing this course for no other reason that they believe they can, with little care for those affected.

**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION**

20 BAY STREET, SUITE 1700, TORONTO, ONTARIO M5J 2N8

P 416.313.2300

WWW.NHLPA.COM

F 416.313.2301

Regrettably, this is the owners' normal approach to bargaining. This is the 3rd lockout in hockey in less than 20 years, continuing a pattern which exists in all "salary cap" sports - - lock out first, ask questions later, no matter who gets hurt. It's happened with the NHL, the NBA, and the NFL, even with NFL officials. The only sport in which this does not happen is baseball, where there is no cap and real revenue sharing. The owners are unwilling to address the reality that those hurt most by lockouts – stadium workers, small businesses and their employees, and local government - are often in the worst economic position to survive this kind of punitive tactic.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you what's happening in hockey in greater detail. Some of our members live in your city and understand the personal cost of what the owners have chosen to do.

Thank you again for your interest.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Fehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donald" and the last name "Fehr" clearly distinguishable.

Donald M. Fehr  
Executive Director