

From: [David Ahrens](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Due Diligence in Evaluating Ice Arena Proposal
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 12:52:08 PM
Attachments: [Ice Arenas.docx](#)

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Alders

Your foremost consideration should be acting with due diligence on behalf all of the residents of the city.

David Ahrens

Claim: Madison Ice Inc. (MII) ran deficits for the last four years due to the pandemic.

Fact: Madison Ice had surpluses (profit) in three of the last four years. (See Chart, page 5) The single year it had a deficit was due to a sharp increase in salaries. In all years, MII depreciated its capital costs in a single year rather than multiple years. This had the effect of appearing to increase expenses.

Questions: If Madison Ice is as “broke” as they say, how can it raise \$3 million for repairs? Couldn’t they raise the funds to pay off the debt to the city of \$1.6 million (not including interest)?

Why didn’t the mayor disclose the fact that the city was owed almost \$2 million (principle and interest) prior to the referendum?

Rather than rely on Madison Ice’s claims, why doesn’t the City -as a lender- exercise “due diligence” and require a financial audit?

Claim: Madison Ice Inc “owns” the arenas.

Fact: Madison continues to have the title to the property. Madison could have revoked the deed held by Madison for failure to pay on its land contract for four years.

Claim: The arenas are public arenas.

The arenas are owned by the City but function primarily as facilities for private clubs. The **majority** of the hours of operation in Hartmeyer are used by Madison Patriots youth club. It is the practice and tournament facility for Monona Grove HS. (Neither East of LaFollette HS have a hockey team).

The **majority** of hours of operation at Madison Ice arena are used by Polar Caps. Only **four** hours per week (T/Tr 12:30-2:30 PM) are allocated for “public skating.” Only **two** hours per week of “public skating” are allocated at Hartmeyer. See Charts P.3-4

Overwhelmingly, the arenas are operated for the benefit of wealthy families who lease Madison’s arenas at low prices.

Myth: The arenas are intensively used by Madison kids.

Fact: During the months of heaviest use, the arenas are used a little more than half of the operational hours (6 AM-10 PM). Although the proponents of the \$1.6 million give-away often cite “learn to skate” and “public skating” these two activities comprise **less than 5%** of the operational hours. For eight months of the year, the arenas are rarely used or closed entirely.

Review the weekly and monthly calendars of use at their website: [Madison Ice Inc - Online Booking](#)

Who are the leaders of the pro-giveaway proposal?

In a review of the 13 individuals who are either on the Board of Madison Ice Inc or are major donors, **only one is a Madison resident.** Not one member of the Board lives in Madison.

Because the City has not complied with MGO 8.075 and conducted an equity analysis, we don’t know if the city is spending millions of dollars for an ice arena that is primarily for rich kids from the suburbs. Conducting a data-driven analysis is a better means of determining its actual use to an intensive lobbying campaign by a few dozen parents.

Claim: Madison Ice Inc. is the only entity that could operate the arenas.

Fact: At the 1/6/25 meeting of the Finance Committee, the Director of Economic Development said that he was told (presumably by the mayor) that discussions on ownership transfer were to occur **“exclusively with Madison Ice.”** Thus, we don’t know what other entity might be interested. The question is, why was this negotiation “exclusive” and to not create a Request for Proposals.

Claim: The City is not required to conduct an Economic Feasibility Analysis and an Equity Analysis.

Fact: 8.075 MGO states:

(3) Surplus Property Disposal Method Determination. The EDD Director **shall** determine the method of disposal for the surplus property using the following procedures:

(c) Economic Feasibility Analysis: The EDD Director, or its designee, **shall conduct an economic feasibility analysis (the "EFA")** to determine potential viable and independent uses for the property. If none, then subsection (e) may be used for disposal of the Surplus Real Property.

(d) If the plan or project in subsection (a) did not undergo an equity analysis, **then an equity analysis must be completed before proceeding**. This analysis is intended to give guidance on equity issues affecting the plan or project, or on best uses of the property, consistent with the EFA, to serve under-represented communities and form a RFP process to get a diverse response pool under subsection (d).

Neither an **Economic Feasibility** or **Equity Analysis** has been conducted. The City has stated, “An alternative use of the property has not been considered at any level of detail.” This is a violation of city ordinances.

Claim: The arenas and the adjacent land are valued at \$4,000,000.

Fact: The City has not contracted for an independent assessment of the buildings and seven acres of land. Thus, the City does not know the value of the property it proposes to give away- other than the \$1.6 million of debt.

It could be worth many multiples of the often-cited 20 year-old assessment. Hartmeyer is no longer adjacent to the Oscar Mayer plant but instead is now close to hundreds of new apartments. Land values across the city have more than doubled in the twenty years.

Nor has the City assessed the condition of the buildings. Would you buy or sell a property without an inspection (evaluation)?

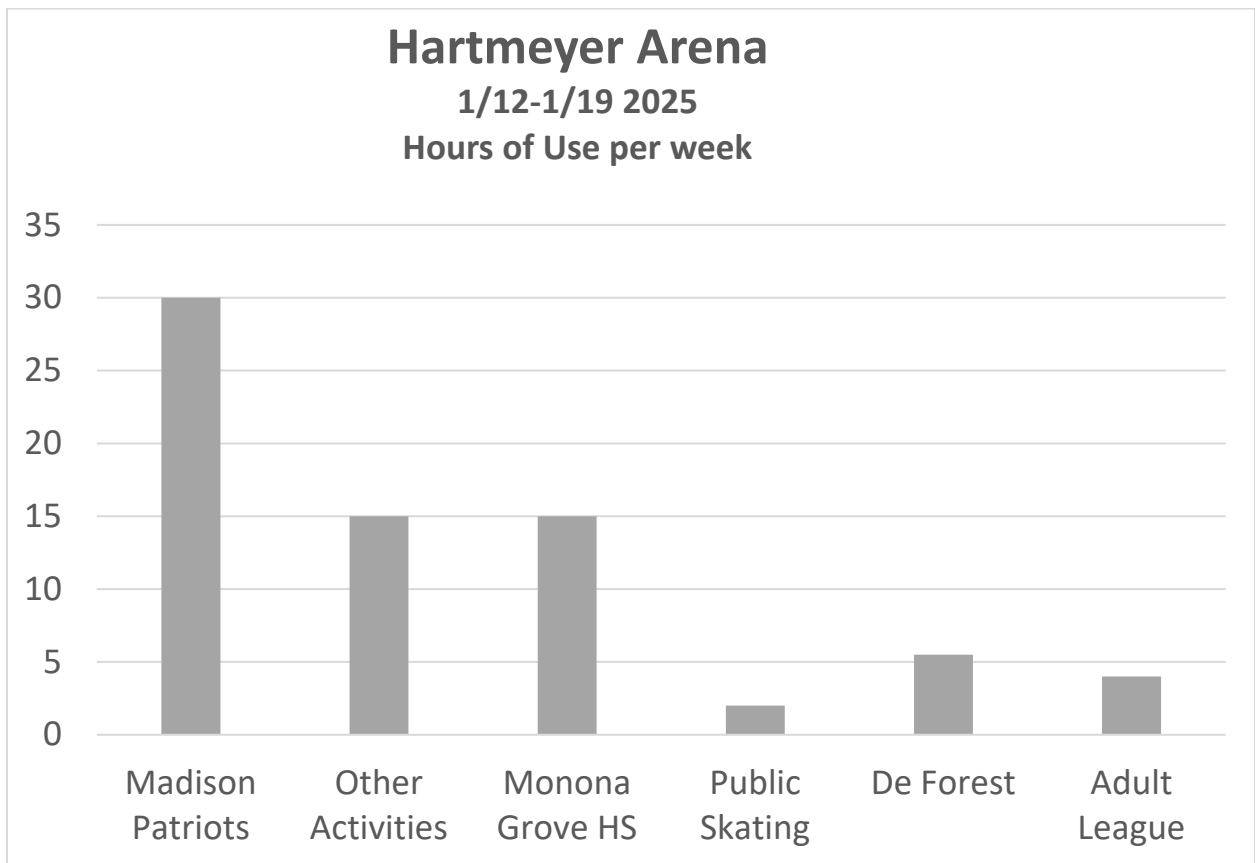
Claim: The City has “saved” \$250,000 per year by having Madison Ice operate the arenas.

Fact: This assumes that if the City operated the arenas it would continue to charge low admission and leasing fees to the prep clubs, Polar Caps and Patriots and high school teams. It also assumes that the City would not change how the arenas are managed.

If the City would require the same standard of “saving” or “losing” money on operations, how many city functions would continue to be public?

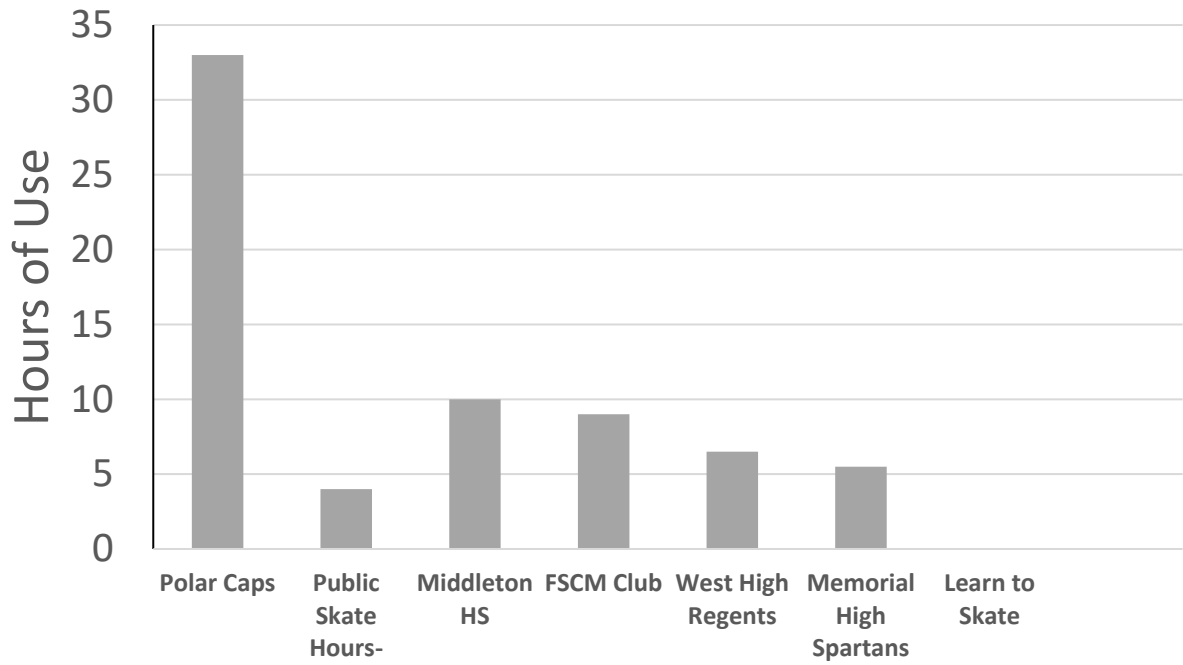
Summary of The City’s Failures of Due Diligence:

- No Economic Feasibility or Equity Analysis (MGO 8.075)
- No financial audit of Madison Ice Inc who has defaulted on \$1.6 million in payments (2020-2024)
- No valuation of seven acres of land within city limits.
- No independent assessment of the condition of the buildings.
- No independent assessment of the value of the buildings.
- No independent assessment or analysis of the actual use of the properties.
- No Request for Proposals from other potential users and managers of ice arenas.
- No Request for Proposals from housing or business developers for other purposes of land use (that would garner taxes rather than more debt).



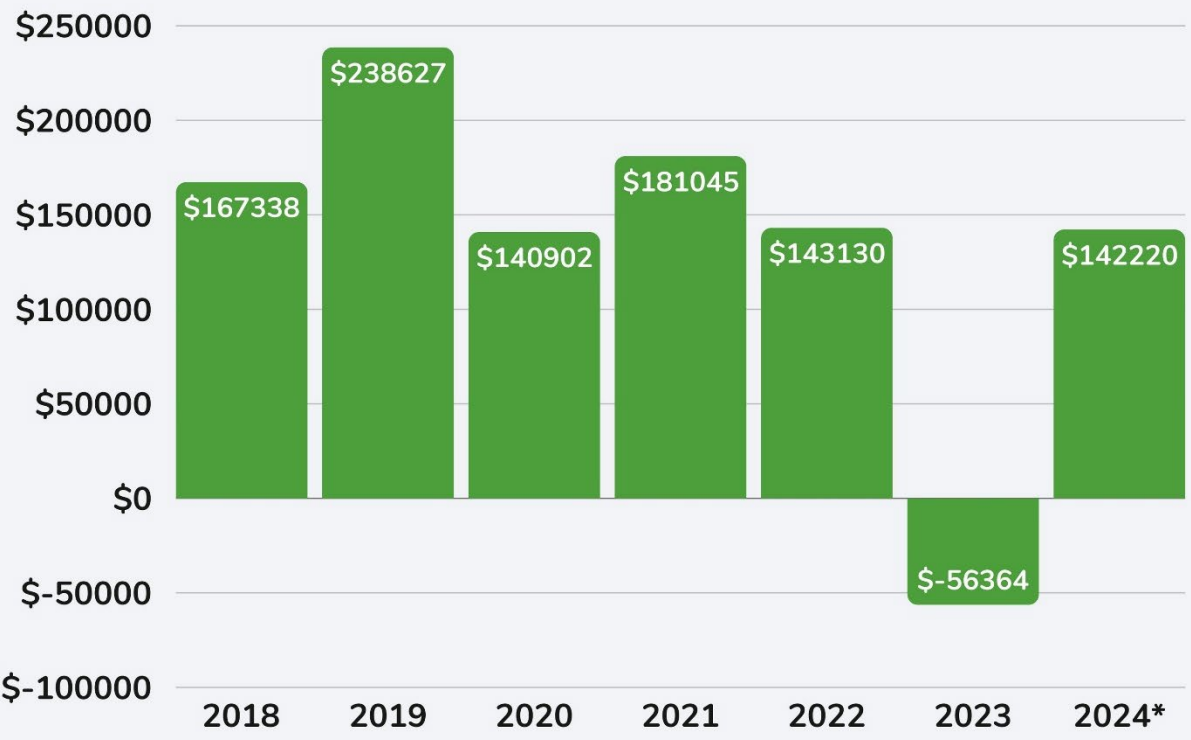
Madison Ice Arena

1/13-1/19/25



Arena Users

MADISON ICE, INC. REVENUES LESS EXPENSES 2018 TO 2024



From: [noreply](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: [All Alders] Madison Ice, Inc. debt forgiveness
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:47:07 PM

Recipient: All Alders:

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – 12:42pm

Vaira and Ron Akselis
13 Julia Circle

Madison, Wisconsin. 53705 Yes, by email. senji1@sbcglobal.net All Alders Madison Ice, Inc. debt forgiveness This resolution should NOT proceed any further until many questions have been answered. Why was the debt by Madison Ice allowed to go on for so long w/o being addressed? If a private homeowner were to not pay property taxes, this would not be tolerated! We should ALL have to pay our share. As senior citizens, we are sick and tired of Madison just asking for more and more money for all sorts of pet projects which are NOT NECESSITIES for a City to run properly! There is much talk about "affordable housing" and yet, for retirees like us, it will soon truly be UNAFFORDABLE to live in Madison, which has been my hometown for over 50 years of my life. Enough is enough. You need to know how to say "NO" and say it loudly and clearly. Thank you.

From: [Jennifer Argelander](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Item 50-Legistar 86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:38:40 AM

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I oppose the forgiveness of \$1.6 million of debt held by Madison Ice Inc for the two ice arenas (item 50, legistar 86169) Shortly after voters approved a \$22 million increase in property taxes based on the assertion that the city was broke, I find it fiscally unacceptable and bad fiscal mismanagement of our taxes to suddenly think that \$1.6 million can just be forgiven. Madison Ice Inc. tax returns show they are not broke. Why are they in default? IRS statements for 2021, 2022, and 2024 show it made a profit in each of those years. In 2023 it had a small loss when it increased staff salaries by \$100,000. The City could have demanded that the properties be returned to the city for nonpayment but the City chose to allow the non-payments to continue. An audit must be completed. And Madison Ice Inc must be held responsible for the contract they signed.

The City must find a better way to save the ice arenas which I feel are needed in this city. The City should not be rewarding Madison Ice for defaulting on their payments. This situation should be reconsidered and Madison Ice Inc should be required to pay what they owe the City. And then a clean RFP be announced with strict intentions for saving the ice arenas. This property should not be used for more apartments. We need these ice arenas and for them to be run appropriately.

Jennifer Argelander
1715 Erie court
Madison, 53704

From: [Richard Beilfuss](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Resolution #86169 Madison Ice Arenas Resolution
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 7:36:42 PM

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Common Council Adlers-

I am writing to express my strong support for the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169). The Hartmeyer Ice Arena is an important part of our community and I encourage all of you to support this effort to improve the management and ownership structure needed to revitalize the arena.

Thank you,
Rich Beilfuss
444 Jean Street, Madison, WI, 53703
608-320-5250

From: [Lonna Berg](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:14 AM

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Good morning,

I wanted to take some time to urge you to support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution.

I have one child who plays for the Patriots Rec team and another who is learning to play hockey.

It would be an incredible loss to the community if this ice rink is shut down. I've never seen the ice not being used. In fact, it's often so busy that we (or other teams) need to practice at other rinks. We need more ice in Madison, not less.

Outdoor rinks are unpredictable. We volunteer at our neighborhood rink and the last two winters had very little outdoor ice time. We use the ice at Hartmeyer for open hockey and open skate. It's a wonderful resource for families.

We not only need the doors at Hartmeyer to stay open, but we need some infrastructure updates to remain operational.

We hope that the council will understand what a vital resource this rink is to our community and support this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration; have a wonderful day.

The Bergs,
Tom, Lonna, Theo and Ella

From: [Kristen Block](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support Madison's Ice Arenas!
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:51:11 PM

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Hi!

Thank you for all you do. I am writing to express my family's support for the Madison Ice Arena Resolution. My son started playing hockey for the Patriots 3 years ago. We tapped into a community we didn't know existed!! We have absolutely fallen in love with the sport and our time at Hartmeyer. My son, daughter and I have made lifelong friendships. My son has found a sport that he not only excels at but feels challenged and supported in. The families of the patriots organization are some of the most inclusive people we've met in the city. Everyone is welcomed into the fold. They work to keep the cost down and provided free equipment our first year to make sure he wanted to be a hockey player before we had to invest in our own equipment.

As a small business owner I will support the ice arena as those opportunities arise. It is obvious there is a vast network to be tapped into to help fund the upkeep of the arena if a more functional organization were managing it. All the surrounding communities are able to offer ice time to their communities for various activities- hockey, figure skating, open skating. Madison should not fall behind and deny this opportunity to our citizens. This is the capital of Wisconsin for crying out loud!! Winter is our thing!

Please don't take away this amazing place where families huddle under blankets and support our kids with love and passion.

Thank you,
Kristen Block

From: [Jason Bree](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:09:05 PM

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City Leaders,

I am writing in support of the Madison Ice Arenas resolution. Both of my children have skated at both Madison rinks for many years now. They started with learn to skate and level one and two hockey when they were 4 and 5 years old. Today one is in his last year of youth hockey looking forward to high school hockey next year and the other plays high school hockey.

The friendships they have made and the lessons they have learned have been invaluable to their development as upstanding students and community members.

Madison's ice rinks bring thousands of visitors to our community every year. Hosting state tournaments brings hotels stays and restaurants visits from across the state. To be a city with such a rich hockey legacy and risk losing a place for our kids to play would be disheartening.

Respectfully,
Jason Bree

From: [adam burr](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:37:49 PM

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Hello Alders,

I am a resident of Monona but have two and soon to be 3 kids playing hockey at Hartmeyer. It's an incredible place, and I hope you advocate to keep it open going forward. There are very limited ice rinks in Madison. Closing Hartmeyer would lead to an overload on the westside rink and lead to less kids participating in what is a lifelong sport for many. Thank you for your consideration.

Thanks,
Adam Burr

From: [Samantha Burr](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Resoultion #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:02 PM

You don't often get email from sweishan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good Morning City Council,

I am Samantha Burr and I am writing to express my support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a parent, I have experienced firsthand the positive impact of Hartmeyer and their programming. I do not come from a hockey family, but when my 7 year-old expressed interest Hartmeyer's learn to skate program was easily accessible, affordable, and welcoming. My 7 year-old is now thriving as Mite and has developed positive relationships with his teammates and coaches. This has even led to my shy 5 year-old son getting out of his comfort zone to start hockey this year and he has developed a sense of confidence in trying something new and challenging. My children's involvement at Hartmeyer has also led to my whole family becoming a part of a broader community of families that have the same goal of supporting the development of youth.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Samantha Burr
sweishan@gmail.com
414-232-3433

From: [Peter Cannon](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:20:37 PM

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Seems like Hartmeyer is in very bad shape. Why pour good money after bad? Let's find a way to build a new arena on the site with 5+ stories of housing above it. That would be a much better use for land close to bus routes and near downtown.

Peter Cannon
5 Cherokee Cir. Unit 202
Madison, WI 53704

From: josh_crossoversproshop.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: In Favor of Item 11
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 5:10:57 PM

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Hi Finance Committee Members,

My name is Josh Carney, and I own Crossovers Pro Shop in the Madison Ice Arena. We have been in operation as a family-owned business since 2011 inside of Madison Ice Arena. As a business owner relying on ice skating and sports associated with ice skating, keeping the rinks open is crucial to my business and many other businesses in the area. Without these rinks, as well as the community associated with them, I would not be able to continue operation offering crucial services to all ice skating and hockey users.

I support the proposed referendum and hope that the city considers the businesses that would be impacted if the rinks were to close.

Josh Carney

Owner
Crossovers Pro Shop

608-442-0009
www.crossoversproshop.com

From: [Katherine Carroll](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:38 PM

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Dear Madison City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Madison's proposal to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (Resolution #86169). This decision represents an important investment in our community's future, alleviating financial pressure on a facility that is vital to our city. In doing so, the city will be able to continue offering programs that provide our youth with valuable recreational experiences.

Access to well-maintained facilities like the ice arena is crucial for fostering teamwork, leadership, and important life skills in children from all backgrounds. As an aunt to two talented hockey players, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational activities have on young people. The ice arena serves as a safe and supportive space where children can grow, learn, and thrive. I commend the city's commitment to supporting initiatives that prioritize the well-being and development of our youth, which in turn strengthens our community.

While I recognize there are vocal opponents to this plan, I believe their concerns are driven by a limited understanding of the full picture and the long-term benefits of this investment. Their focus on the immediate financial cost overlooks the lasting value that this investment will bring to our youth and our community. This short-sighted perspective does not reflect the values that make Madison such a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the broader, long-term benefits of this plan for our community.

Sincerely,

Katherine Carroll
Proud Hockey Auntie

--

Katherine B. Carroll

From: [Jeremy Cesarec](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Resolution #86169
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:31:46 AM

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Hello,

As a Madison resident and homeowner who supports providing community-building opportunities to our city's kids and adults, I urge you to support Resolution #86169. An improved Hartmeyer rink will add to the quality of life of many members of our hockey and skating-loving community.

Thank you,
Jeremy Cesarec
408 Sidney St.

From: [Judy Chen](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: RE. Madison Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:24:44 AM

You don't often get email from yanjun.chen2004@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to advocate for the MIA and HIA in Madison.

As an adult skater, I started ice skating in my mid-forties and skated for over ten years. Skating has become an integral part of my life. It is a great way to help maintain wellness for people physically and emotionally. The ice arena is available in essentially every neighborhood city around Madison. As the capital of Wisconsin, there is no reason to give up the MIA and HIA for any reason.

Please give your consideration on keeping the MIA and HIA viable.

Sincerely,

Judy Chen

From: [Rick Coelho](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In Support of Ice Arena Measure
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:22:05 PM

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Alders,

I am writing in support of the resolution seeking to forgive \$1.6 million in outstanding debt and transfer the Hartmeyer arena to the East Madison Ice Collective.

My family resides in a near east side apartment and the Hartmeyer arena is a local community resource that has fundamentally benefited my family in profound ways.

Hartmeyer is where I learned to skate as an adult learner with Madison Ice Inc's learn to skate classes. Those lessons opened up the world of adult hockey to me, an activity that seriously shaped my life for the better. The physical activity helps me manage depression in the winter months and the camaraderie of the locker room has helped me battle the social isolation so many adults can feel. I am three years into this journey and I cannot imagine my life without it.

Hartmeyer arena is where my six year old son plays hockey with the Patriots. After taking his own skating lessons with Madison Ice Inc since he was four, I have watched him blossom as a young athlete and hockey player. He has the lifelong benefit of having developed strong skills through adversity, challenge and hard work. Please don't risk me having to take him out of the Madison community to continue that growth.

I am not just a hockey father; I also coach a U6 hockey team with the Patriots. My time is rewarded by the growth of each skater each year as hockey players and teammates, as well as the smiles that come with success on the ice.

I fear that if this measure does not pass, there is no viable alternative that will keep Hartmeyer open as an ongoing East Side community resource. As an adult hockey player and coach, I can see the deteriorating nature of the arena. I've seen the glaring need for capital investment, whether it is to replace an aging zamboni or repair a failing roof. I have seen the poor state of our community resource here in Madison vis a vis our neighboring communities. We can do better and this measure is a viable path to do so.

I appreciate your time in reading my message, and I hope you can find yourself supporting the measure this evening for the good of the East Side community.

Rick Coelho

rickcoelho@mac.com

From: [Anne Conti](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Save Hartmeyer - Pass the resolution
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:44 AM

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To whom it may concern:

Hartmeyer is a cornerstone of our family and community here in East Madison. I was trying to add up the hours we have spent at Hartmeyer over the last 9 years and when I got over 1000 I stopped. We are a hockey family and our kids got their start at Hartmeyer. Through easy to access Learn to Skate programs, Try Hockey for Free sessions and Learn to Play classes the love of the sport emerged. Even my daughter, after a foray into figure skating, and many skating classes converted after a Girls Try Hockey for Free session at Hartmeyer one cold afternoon. But it is so much more than just a sport. The hours spent at the rink involve connection with so many east side families, kids, grandparents and supporters.

All that being said, Hartmeyer is in dire need of updates and improvements to make it sustainable for our kids' future. To make it somewhere our kids can play into high school, it will need funding and engaged management. I believe what the East Madison Ice Collective has proposed is a functional plan that will ensure this future. My father, now in his late 70s, played at Hartmeyer when he was in college at UW, he says the rink basically looks the same. We have work to do, don't let the kids down by closing the rink, let the engaged volunteers put their energy into it to make it something better and long lasting.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Anne Conti

From: [Tom Cox](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice area
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 12:53:02 PM

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To all Alders,

I strongly urge you to vote against forgiving the \$1.6 million Ice Arena debt. The city's finances were so dire that a \$22 million referendum was essential. Giving away a \$1.6 million now seems extremely irresponsible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Cox

25 Morningdale Circle

Madison, WI 53717

From: [Laura Cullen](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: East Madison Ice - Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:08 AM

[You don't often get email from ljcullen11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

Thank you so much for considering,

Laura and Jack Huibregtse,
Henry (5) Snow plow skater and hockey player,
Jane (3) Teddy Bear skater and hockey player (because girls play hockey too!), &
Maeve (6 months) future skater and hockey player

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Claire Dalle Molle](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In support of debt forgiveness for Hartmeyer
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:14:13 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cpdallemolle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I'm writing in support of the proposed plan to forgive the Hartmeyer debt and sell Hartmeyer and Madison Ice. I don't usually support transferring assets out of state/city control. But these venues and the people running them have proven over time to be a community asset and to value community engagement and stewardship of the venues as a shared resource. Given the incredible amount of repairs needed, and the plan to fundraise for those repairs, the proposed plan of forgiveness/sale is the best one.

A number of my children have skated for the Patriots at Hartmeyer. We are there literally all the time. I have witnessed the incredible community asset that this place is. We should not change that, especially when changing will cost the city a ton of money. Let the people who want the building fundraise, and let it continue to provide what it does right now: a venue for kids, families, and the public.

Very sincerely,

Claire Dalle Molle
608-658-9069

From: [Kirk Daubenspeck](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice rink resolution
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:47 AM

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As long time member of the Madison ice hockey community I urge you to pass this resolution. Hockey changed my life and having Hartmeyer a couple of miles from my childhood home helped. I ended up getting a scholarship to play for my dream school, the UW. Subsequently I went on to play 9 years professionally after the UW. I grew up at Hartmeyer, I had two brother 11 and 9 years older than me. If I didn't have hockey in my life I have no idea how I would have turned out. I had the privilege of attending Culver Military Academy for 3 years after one at East. Again another life changing moment because of hockey. A lot of money goes to a lot less influential programs in this city. Quite honestly the facilities in town have not changed since I was a kid in the '70s & '80s. They are embarrassingly outdated — just think what has been used and enjoyed by so many people that has 70's ammenities? What are these kids going to do without updates or any ice rinks? Please make a real life change while you can. I appreciate your time.

Kind regards,

Kirk
(608) 886-4102

From: [ulrike dieterle](mailto:ulrike.dieterle@gmail.com)
To: [Vidaver, Regina](#); [All Alders](#)
Cc: [ulrike dieterle](mailto:ulrike.dieterle@gmail.com)
Subject: Madison's Great Ice Rink Debacle
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:57:39 AM

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Madison's Great Ice Rink Debacle

Please do not vote in favor of forgiving Madison Ice, Inc.'s debt of \$1.6 million plus interest. Do not authorize the sale of \$1 for this valuable property. Madison just passed a huge and, for property owners, a painful referendum. This is not the time for a big "giveaway." Was the message that Madison is broke a lie? It may seem that way if this giveaway goes through. It would totally erode credibility in city hall. It would be a slap in the face to all of us paying what are already outrageous property taxes. There are surely other alternatives to providing support both for the rinks and for access.

It is not unreasonable to expect payment of agreements made in good faith to keep ice rinks open. It is also not unreasonable to ask participants at ice rinks to pay a small user fee – maybe \$1 - \$2. This would, over time, provide enough support for continued operational expenses and ensure that our residents have access to ice sports.

And, why did it take so long for the city to act on this since it seems Madison Ice, Inc. has not made payments for a number of years? Can renters live in their dwellings for years before being evicted for nonpayment? Where is the fairness factor in all of this? Please pull together a better solution that will be fair to taxpayers and ice rink users.

Ulrike Dieterle, 323 N Blackhawk Ave, Madison 53705

From: [Carley Dodge](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Save Hartmeyer!
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:44:38 AM

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Dear Mayor and Common Counsel Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday January 14th.

We find Hartmeyer to be the most convenient location for families on the north side that offer hockey, figure skating and learn to skate. We'd hate to lose such an important center for our community especially during the winter time.

Thank you!

Carley London
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cole Fritz](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Written Comment
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 4:07:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hockeycole11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello! I hope I am not too late to submit this (was a bit busy today) below is the written statement I hope to attach to the Common Council Meeting's Notes:

"Hello,

My name is Cole; I am a goaltender with the Wisconsin Timberwolves Disabled Hockey program and registered goalie coach through USA Hockey, working with the West Madison Polar Caps Youth Hockey Program. I regret that I cannot be there in person, but as you are reading this, I will be in the middle of practice with the U10 team I have been assigned to. I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the bill allowing Madison Ice Inc. to be relieved of its debt so that renovations can be made to Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena. These two ice rinks alone support three high school hockey programs, two youth hockey programs, at least 1-2 figure skating programs, multiple recreational hockey leagues, one sled hockey program, one disabled hockey program, and a myriad of affordable learn-to-skate programs for those who wish to learn but can not afford to play hockey or figure skate. These ice rinks have served the Madison area well for decades, helping to promote healthy lifestyles and giving kids opportunities to learn not just how to play winter sports but to grow as leaders and learn to work within a team. For many like myself, these ice rinks provide community support. For instance, I am on the Autism Spectrum, and the Timberwolves Disabled Hockey program allows people like me to meet others within our community and get to grow our community through a game we all love. An environmental issue is also at stake; as the world gets warmer, it will be harder and harder to find outdoor ice. I suspect that within my lifetime, outdoor ice will no longer be something I can reliably look forward to year in and year out. These rinks will be the only way to partake in ice-based sports within the city. If the bill is voted down, it puts every program mentioned above at risk of being shut down and forcing parents, who already put so much time, effort, and money into supporting their kids to have to drive well out of the city limits for ice time while the only rink left in the city would be UW's student rink which physically can not support every program mentioned above and their own

programming.

I urge you to vote yes to pass this bill. Madison has a strong ice skating community that has produced people like Mark Johnson, the Suter Family, Eric and Beth Heiden, Connie Carpenter-Phinney, and many more. Do not let that history fall by the wayside. Keep the ice-using community in Madison strong as we move into a future where indoor ice rinks are the only way to enjoy the sports we love."

let me know if there's anything else you need from me!

Cole Drea

He/They

Wisconsin Historical Society

From: [Dylan Hanson](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:34 AM

You don't often get email from dylanhanson34@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am writing to voice support in favor of Hartmeyer remaining open. The facility is vital to many people for sport, recreation and entertainment. It is especially important to children as a means of physical activity and social interaction. It brings people from different communities together and if the facility did not exist or was not replaced with another one these opportunities would not exist.

If kids don't have the resources to become physically active and engage socially in structured activities such as the ones that take place at Hartmeyer, that can have serious negative consequences on them and the community as a whole.

What is also missed I believe in the possibility of shutting down these recreation centers is the overall economic impact. While these facilities do not independently generate significant revenue, if they can at least remain cost neutral, they have a significant value to the businesses and community around them. If Hartmeyer did not exist, you lose all the people that frequent business in that area.

For instance I live in Cottage Grove, we use Sutera for sports needs because of its convenience while in the area for hockey. If it were not for Hartmeyer, we would not be in that part of town. We have drinks and eat at restaurants in that area because Hartmeyer brings us there. If you lose those customers, those businesses may need to reduce employment or close all together because the customer base has shrunk. Which will have a negative impact on the city's tax revenues and overall well being of the people who live in the area. Once thriving businesses could become empty stores because of short sighted decisions.

I find this extremely unfortunate that the city isn't willing to provide any financial resources to a facility that is fairly important to the economic and social well being of the community. Instead the City is looking at options to make a short term gain in a potential sale.

While Hartmeyer is at risk of shutting down, the city was willing to build a bike bridge called Autumn Ridge Path that cost 4.5 million dollars. This is more than the entire debt and repairs needed for Hartmeyer to remain and even be repaired. I drive under that bridge almost daily and everytime I go to Hartmeyer. Yet I don't recall ever seeing anyone use it yet. There were already pathways near that area and this bridge provided no or minimal economic benefit. There are no ice options to replace Hartmeyer if it is gone and there would be significant economic loss to the area if the rink is shut down.

I also find it unfortunate that the city is sticking the potential group that could take Hartmeyer over with a major financial burden. While MII created the situation and would be allowed to continue ownership of the west side ice with much less financial burden and a rink that is in better condition.

Do the right and smart thing. Keep Hartmeyer alive. It should be a historical landmark in the

city that's preserved, not destroyed.

From: [Heather Edge](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Urgent Support for Madison Ice Arenas #86169
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:35 PM

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Dear Madison City Council Members and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident, parent and an enthusiastic supporter of our community's recreational facilities. I urge your support for the Madison Ice Arenas, which are in dire need of infrastructure updates to remain operational. These updates are essential not only for preserving the rinks for the next generation of skaters but also for maintaining the critical community programming that these facilities provide.

Madison's Ice Rinks have long been a cornerstone of our community, offering a safe and inclusive space for individuals of all ages to engage in physical activity, develop their skills, and foster a sense of community. Personally, witnessing the joy on my child's face and the delight of other skaters brings immense happiness and a profound sense of community. The continued operation of these rinks is vital for the health and well-being of our residents and for nurturing the talents of future athletes.

As a mental health provider in Madison, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that both Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena have on the children and adults who utilize the facilities. They provide a sense of community, physical activity and social engagement which is essential to mental well-being. The Madison Ice Arenas offer an invaluable outlet for stress relief, social interaction, and physical fitness, all of which contribute to improved mental health. Losing these facilities would deprive many individuals of a vital resource that supports their overall health and well-being.

As a parent and community member, I am deeply concerned about the potential loss of this invaluable community asset. The arenas have been a vital resource for local schools, sports teams, individuals and families, offering an accessible and affordable option for ice skating and hockey enthusiasts. Moreover, they have hosted numerous community events that have brought people from other communities into Madison and strengthened the bonds among residents.

I urge the City Council to prioritize the preservation and continued operation of the Madison Ice Arenas. Investing in these facilities will not only ensure that current and future generations can enjoy their benefits but also demonstrate our commitment to maintaining the health and well-being of our community. I believe that with your support, we can find solutions to any challenges the arenas may face and secure their future.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to seeing the Madison Ice Arenas continue to thrive as cherished community assets.

Sincerely,

Heather Edge

From: [Emily Embury](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Aaron Embury](#)
Subject: Strong Support for the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 8:23:49 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from emilyembury@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City Council Members,

My name is Emily Embury and our family of five is actively involved in the Patriots Youth Hockey Association in Madison. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) currently under consideration.

As a parent and passionate advocate for the role sports play in youth development, I believe this resolution has the potential to significantly enhance our community's health and well-being. The Patriots Youth Hockey Association is located at the Hartmeyer Ice Area and has been instrumental in the development of our three boys: Arlo (10), Silas (8) and Leo (5). Over the past four years, hockey has provided a fun way for our boys to engage in physical activity, but more importantly, hockey has enabled our boys to build the traits they need to be successful in life. Hockey has taught our boys self-confidence and the value of work ethic, commitment, teamwork, resilience, discipline, leadership and sportsmanship.

Personally, I have witnessed the positive impact of the ice arenas in our community, and I am confident that this initiative would be equally beneficial to the development of youth in our city. Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this important resolution.

Sincerely,
Emily & Aaron Embury
302 Ela Terrace
Monona, WI 53716
608-469-2604

From: [Beth Esser](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Derek Gmail](#)
Subject: Support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:50:51 PM

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Madison Alders,

Our family writes to urge you to support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169). Currently our two children both attend Madison public schools (Sennett & LaFollette) and play hockey at Hartmeyer with the Madison Dragons and South Central Navigators hockey teams. But the use of Hartmeyer in our family dates back several decades to when my husband grew up playing hockey there and watching Madison Capitals games. In addition to hockey, all of us have enjoyed many open skate sessions at Hartmeyer and Madison Ice arenas. Having a venue which offers a healthy, family friendly and affordable activity like open skate in Madison is a valuable offering of the city. With climate change, the ability to skate outdoors becomes more limited as time passes.

The South Central Navigators High School hockey team (a coop team with Madison East and LaFollette high school players as well as other schools) hosted a 'Skate with the Navs' event after a recent game at Hartmeyer. My husband and I were volunteering to hand out skates to the many high school students who came out to enjoy this free public skate event-we ran out of skates so many students showed up! It was wonderful to see high school students enjoying a fun and safe activity together on the ice. Many of them were first time skaters but the laughter and enjoyment were shared by all.

Hartmeyer & Madison Ice arenas have been home to both novice and experienced skaters for decades and the City should support the effort of East Madison Ice Collective to have these treasured Madison venues continue with the actions outlined in Resolution #86169.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Beth Esser, Derek Peterson, & our children Miles and Ila
6009 Ridgewood AVE
Monona, WI 53716
608-239-1353

From: [Emily Farwell](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Rink
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:37:45 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from emcash32@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and City Alders-

I am writing this email in favor of the sale of Madison's Hartmeyer Ice Arena to the East Madison Ice Coalition. It is not a coincidence that the name Hartmeyer has the word "Hart" imbedded in it (although the spelling is a little off)! Hartmeyer has proven itself to be the heart and cornerstone of the East side of Madison for over 40 years! Drive by at any time, especially in the Fall and Winter and you will see a parking lot full of cars, but walk into the building and you will have a whole different experience. You will instantly become a part of a new community, whether you're watching 4-year olds learn how to skate, figure skaters pulling of a well-rehearsed program, our hockey teams, 4-year olds through high school, adult hockey leagues, or families skating hand-in-hand while at open skate. Teams travel from all over Wisconsin to find some friendly competition at Hartmeyer; our city is destination that they look forward too.

While Hartmeyer hasn't changed much in appearance over the past 40 years, one thing still remains true; there have been generations of priceless memories created there, life-long friendships established, and community support raised for so many good causes! It's irreplaceable to say the least. At a time when many surrounding communities are raising millions of dollars to add additional sheets of ice at their rinks (McFarland, Verona, DeForest most recently), to meet current and rising demand, it seems absolutely crazy to even entertain the idea of shutting down Hartmeyer, a rink that serves East and North Madison, Monona, Cottage Grove and beyond! We have been members of the Hartmeyer family for the last 7-years when my son took his first learn-to-skate class, now we basically LIVE at the rink as he is on one of the Madison Patriots travel hockey teams. I grew up going to Hartmeyer to see my friends play hockey. It is a building that holds a special place in my heart, and will hopefully continue to be for my own family as well.

There is a very motivated and dedicated group who are wholeheartedly willing to take on Hartmeyer and everything that comes along with purchasing it. They are ready to give it the TLC that it deserves; they are people who already have a love for not only the building, but more so the family and community that flourishes while it being inside of it. There is only one correct way to vote about the sale of Hartmeyer: YES!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and your time dedicated to this matter!

Emily Farwell
(608)516-8332
Madison Patriots Hockey mom and Madison Metro School District teacher

From: [Jim Feldman](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 1:17:36 PM

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Hello Mayor Rhodes-Conway and members of the Madison Common Council
I urge the Madison Common Council to support the initiative to support the Madison-area ice rinks.

A community ice rink is a public good, and sometimes securing those goods comes with a cost.

In this case, the city is getting a terrific deal—maintaining the historically and culturally significant opportunities for skating at a fraction of what it would otherwise cost. The current ownership structure, through MIA, isn't currently paying off its loan, so the city isn't getting any revenue now, so there isn't a financial loss to the city. And to continue to provide the public good of skating at Hartmeyer, it is going to cost \$3 million. We have citizens willing to raise this \$3 million through the new nonprofit (East Madison Ice Collective), relieving the city of the need to use taxpayer dollars to fix the rink and continue to provide the public good of community-oriented skating opportunity. One estimate suggests that having thr rinks operated by a non-profit has saved the city over \$9 million in operating and capital expenses since 2004.

The city isn't being asked to forgive the debt—to make its own financial contribution—until the EMIC group has demonstrated 15 years of fundraising, management, good faith, and public commitment.

Some people are calling this a “giveaway”, and that the city should have the land evaluated for its value on the private real estate market rather than perpetrating this “giveaway” to a group of special interests. That isn't a fair characterization of this effort or the group of citizens working to maintain the public good of a community rink. And the alternative to a community rink isn't private real estate development—that's a false comparison. The alternative is a city with fewer publicly accessible recreational facilities and skating opportunities. The EMIC group is committed to continuing the tradition of public access at Hartmeyer through open ice, skate rentals, scholarships for hockey and other sports, adaptive skating programs, and more.

There is a very real risk that Hartmeyer is going to become unusable—as the parent of a kid who has found his passion and focus on the ice like nowhere else, this seems like a nightmare scenario. Waiting for some kind of future mega-recreational development doesn't seem realistic, and neither does foreclosing on the rink and turning it into some other kind of development. I urge the finance committee to support this initiative.

Thank you
Jim Feldman
2102 Yahara Place,
Madison WI

From: [John Fons](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Agenda 86169 Opposition
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:54:44 AM

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Address to Madison Common Council

January 14, 2024

Re: Agenda 86169 - Opposition

Tomorrow I will send a notice of rent increase to the occupants of a residential property for which I am responsible in Madison. I will do so as a direct result of the property tax increases voted into existence at the November 5, 2024 general election.

I opposed that referendum based on repeated testimony given in public by reliable and experienced city officials who demonstrated without doubt a tax increase would be unnecessary given competent and disciplined management of city finances. The referendum passed. Taxes have increased and tomorrow valued tenants will learn they must pay more in Madison for the same place to live.

Now the mayor and council that sponsored those tax increases propose to forgive \$1.6 million in defaulted loans plus interest and sell the properties to those responsible for one dollar.

Behold the analogy:

Renters fail to make payments on a house for not only months but for years. They have money in the bank, but they don't pay their agreed obligation. I know it because I manage the property. They know it, but we keep the default a secret from the owner. Then I say to the owner, "I have a great idea. These people owe us a lot of money. Let's forgive the debt and give them the house." In this case the owner is the public since public money is involved.

That is exactly what Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway is proposing and that is exactly why I oppose such a flagrant misuse of public funds and public trust as represented in Agenda Item 86169.

f

John Edwin Fons
4634 Tokay Blvd.
Madison WI 53711
608-236-0844 Hm
661-917-0850 cell

From: [Charles Forsmo](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: In Support of Agenda Item 86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:31:57 PM

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Re: 86169

Authorizing the eventual forgiveness of \$1,613,365 of debt held by Madison Ice Inc. for the Madison Ice Arena (725 Forward Drive) and Hartmeyer Ice Arena (1810 and 1834 Commercial Avenue), authorizing the termination of existing land contracts for both ice arenas with Madison Ice Hartmeyer, LLC and Madison Ice MIA, LLC (Madison Ice, Inc.), authorizing the fee simple sale of Hartmeyer Ice Arena to East Madison Ice Collective and the fee simple sale of Madison Ice Arena to Madison Ice, Inc. for \$1, authorizing a fundraising requirement of approximately \$3 million by East Madison Ice Collective for capital improvements to Hartmeyer Ice Arena, and authorizing additional terms related to the renegotiation of the City's relationship to the ice arenas (District 12 and District 19).



Hartmeyer Ice Arena is a generational asset. At left, our son who began skating there over 40 years ago and now skates at Hartmeyer weekly in an adult league and coaches Peewee B for the Madison Patriots.

Both of our grandchildren, Jillian and Evan, are playing there now as well.

East Madison Ice Collective will bring new life to the arena and allow it to continue to be an asset to the east side and to all of the teams that play there as guests.

I wholeheartedly support the resolution and encourage the Council to support youth hockey by passing the resolution.

Charles H. Forsmo

From: [Joe Forward](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [Jennifer Forward](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 11:51:10 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joe@forwardlawservices.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway & Members of the Common Council,

I write in support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169. Both my son (11) and my daughter (9) play hockey for the Madison Patriots Hockey Club. My wife has been a school social worker for Madison Metropolitan School District since 2013, and before that was a therapist at the Rape Crisis Center in Madison.

I am an attorney and Director of Communications at the State Bar of Wisconsin. We now live in Monona, but we contribute to the City of Madison in many ways.

While I support the continued community asset that is Hartmeyer Arena for my kids' sake, their youth hockey days will be over in the blink of an eye. My hope is that future generations of families will obtain the benefits this community resource provides.

During the pandemic, one of our major activities was ice skating on local ponds. My son developed a passion for skating and wanted to pursue hockey. We came into the Patriots Hockey community when he was 8, not knowing anybody or anything about hockey.

I am 46. I was involved in youth sports as a child and now as a parent. I have never been involved with a group of parents, kids, and families who are so dedicated to supporting each other and ensuring their kids are learning life skills, including work ethic, discipline, and sportsmanship while ensuring a safe and fun environment. As a volunteer organization, parents are fully involved and work together.

Hartmeyer Arena is a community space that welcomes everybody. It is an asset that supports Madison, Monona, and Cottage Grove. We are there weekly, and often eat and shop at local restaurants and businesses, including Suter's Gold Medal Sports, Slice's, Bear & Bottle, and other shops in the Lakewood Plaza Shopping Center.

Removing Hartmeyer would remove a community resource that has come to represent the gathering and cooperation of people who may have differing viewpoints on social or political issues, or have differing socioeconomic backgrounds.

We unite around a common goal: providing safe spaces for our children to grow and develop healthy habits, build respect for one another, and embrace healthy competition. These lessons carry over, into education and professional life.

In times of division, we need to work hard to preserve those community resources that unite us and help us build community together. I am certain I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Countless families have benefitted from the opportunities that Hartmeyer provides, to experience the joys of new friends and belonging, and to build community.

Please do not remove that opportunity for future generations. Hartmeyer Arena isn't just about hockey, figure skating, or other ice-based events. It is a tool for us to be better people and a better community. We need those tools now more than ever.

Preserving Hartmeyer preserves our ability to connect people, families, and communities. I respectfully request that you vote on the continued operation of Hartmeyer under Resolution #86169.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Forward
Attorney
Forward Law LLC
Phone: (608) 692-2299

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From: [Laura Franzen-Elmer](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arena Resolution Legistar #86169
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:21 AM

You don't often get email from laura.franzenelmer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City of Madison Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

My name is Laura Franzen-Elmer, and I am honored to serve as President Elect for Madison Ice, Inc. (MII), fully assuming the role on May 1, 2025. Since 2004, MII, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has served as owner and operator of Hartmeyer Ice Arena (on Madison's east side at 1834 Commercial Ave.) and Madison Ice Arena (on Madison's west side at 725 Forward Dr.) under a land contract with the City of Madison.

MII is a community-driven organization that delivers diverse skating programs—from affordable Learn to Skate classes to free Adaptive Skating programs for individuals with disabilities. Since assuming ownership from the City of Madison in 2004, MII has invested over \$5 million in capital improvements, hosted hundreds of thousands of visitors annually, and supported local economic growth through events that draw participants from across the region.

As a lifelong advocate for our community, a professional leader, and a parent whose children have flourished in Madison's ice arenas over the past 20 years, I deeply value the opportunities these rinks provide. Our ice arenas have transformed lives, including my own family's. From teaching my daughter, who copes with bipolar disorder, resilience and confidence, to fostering leadership and teamwork in my son, the rinks are a lifeline for countless families. They offer more than sports—they provide life lessons, community, and hope.

There have been numerous critical comments made by individuals with little regard to the facts. From my position as a lifelong rink user and MII Leader, I will attempt to dispel some of these myths.

Myth: This is strictly a hockey driven initiative.

Truth: As a 501c3, Madison Ice, Inc. (MII) offers more diverse programs than any other rink in the area. We are community driven and seek to offer services for Madison and the surrounding area that foster a love of winter sports and activities in Wisconsin. MII has two distinct yet collaborative revenue streams. First, our primary source of revenue comes from the sale of ice time to our user groups including youth and high school hockey teams, figure skating clubs, sled hockey teams, and other organizations looking to buy ice for large groups. Secondly, we operate and manage our own programming such as the MII Ice Skating School, the Synchronized Team Skating program, and community skating such as open hockey and figure skating, public skate sessions, charitable events and tournaments, and school group functions.

Myth: Closing Madison's Ice Rinks would only affect a handful of privileged individuals.

Truth: Each year, there are over 450,000 visits to Madison's ice rinks. Madison ice arenas are home to several organizations including:

Patriots Youth Hockey Association
Polar Caps Youth Hockey Association
Figure Skating Club of Madison
Memorial High School Hockey

West High School Hockey
Monona Grove High School Hockey
Madison Metro Lynx Hockey
Various Adult Hockey Leagues
Wisconsin Timber Wolves Special Hockey Team
Wisconsin Skeeters Youth Sled Hockey
Wisconsin Sting Adult Sled Hockey
Men & Women's USA Olympic Sled Hockey Teams (official summer training center)
The Madison Broomball Club
Navigators Hockey High School Co-op (DeForest, Lodi, MCDS, Madison East, Madison LaFollette, Pardeeville, Poynette)

MII also operates and manages its own programming such as:

The MII Ice Skating School: low-cost Learn-to-Skate sessions that include skate rentals, serves approximately 1300 skaters per year, and provides 10-12 scholarships per year
Weekly Adaptive Learn-to-Skate: 100% FREE for anyone with cognitive, emotional/behavioral, or physical disabilities serving approximately 170 skaters
Synchronized Skating Team Program: offered at cost
School Physical Education Classes and Classroom Outings
Community Organization Skating Events for Churches, Scouting, etc.
Skating class partnerships with area schools: Waldorf School, One City Schools, Madinah Academy of Madison
Charitable Events & Tournaments for injured firemen, the Humane Society, Skaters with disabilities, cancer, etc.
Daily Open Hockey & Figure Skating (for individuals not affiliated with a club or team to practice skills)
Public Skating: 2-3 times per week, costs under \$10 including skate rental
Birthday Parties

Additionally, Madison Ice Rinks have been used as a polling place, a roller derby rink, meat auction location, workout facility, and a community meeting location. **Many of our user groups host multi day events that bring people in from surrounding cities and states. These participants stay at our local hotels, eat at our local restaurants and shop in our local stores. To name a few such events, the Figure Skating Club of Madison hosts minimally three annual events with hundreds of participants and is hosting the 2025 Midwestern Adult Sectional Figure Skating Championships in March and the Patriots (East side youth hockey program) are hosting a state hockey tournament at Hartmeyer in March of 2025 that would bring approximately 100 hockey families for a weekend from across the state.**

Myth: MII should raise prices to cover the remaining debt.

Truth: From inception, the MII mission statement has been to ensure that Madison's Ice Rinks remain accessible and open for all skaters in the community. Raising prices beyond the market value contradicts our mission and our commitment to ensuring our facilities are accessible to a greater portion of the community.

MII operates on a tight budget, with just over \$100,000 in reserves against \$1.4 million in annual operating costs. Despite this, we continue to prioritize access and inclusivity. Rewarding us with debt elimination would allow us to focus on further essential improvements, ensuring these invaluable community services thrive.

Myth: Madison's Ice Rinks have been mismanaged over the past 20 years.

Truth: The rinks were purchased from the city in 2004. At the time, the city spent approximately \$250k per

year to operate the rinks with no capital improvements. Rinks, like pools, are not a money-making proposition. Since MII assumed management of the rinks, they have kept them operational, paid over \$450k on the loan to the city and invested over \$5m in capital improvements. All while navigating an unprecedented pandemic that forced them to close their doors for a significant amount of time. The statements that MII has mismanaged the rinks is not congruent with the financial reality.

Myth: MII, like other organizations, received funding during the pandemic that should have sustained them during closures.

Truth: While it is true that MII received federal grants totaling approximately \$150,000, this funding was used for wages as intended. It did not replace lost revenue or cover operational expenses that remain regardless if the facility is open or closed.

Myth: MII covertly defaulted on their debt obligations to the City of Madison.

Truth: In 2021, MII made arrangements with the city to defer payments on loans as a result of rink closures due to the pandemic. Once the rinks were able to reopen, operations did not fully return to normal saturation until 2024 and each facility experienced significant equipment failures. Anticipating a longer recovery from the pandemic, the prior board began conversations with the City of Madison in 2022 for the potential forgiveness of the loan in order to allow the organization to reprioritize much needed capital improvements to keep the facilities operational.

Myth: Madison Ice Arenas would be better served if sold to a for-profit entity.

Truth: Over the years, MII has been approached by one for-profit entity. In consideration of this option, which also offered \$1 for the facility and was also contingent upon debt forgiveness, MII determined that Madison Ice Rinks are best led by a nonprofit to ensure skating diversity and community accessibility. This is why MII believes that the East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC), a newly formed nonprofit composed of representatives from the invested skating community, should assume ownership of Hartmeyer Ice Arena (HIA) to provide dedicated attention and support to HIA and preserve the diverse skating opportunities for the east side skating community.

Myth: History will repeat itself and in ten years the City of Madison will be called upon again for support.

Truth: Without the heavy debt burden, MII and EMIC can focus efforts on fundraising for the much needed and overdue capital improvements to keep the rinks operational. Additionally, the MII Board has restructured, bringing in new leadership, energy, and experience to further our mission of keeping Madison's Ice Rinks accessible and community-focused. As a newly engaged Board, we have been updating our bylaws, policies and guidelines, term limits, and structure to run our organization more effectively. Please go to our MII website at <https://www.miiboardofdirectors.org/> to learn more about us.

Myth: The skating community in Madison deserves better.

Truth: We agree! Madison's community skating facilities are long overdue for an upgrade. However, with the City of Madison experiencing a shortfall, large scale sponsors and donors interested in this undertaking are scarce, and given that current users of Madison's Ice Rinks are all nonprofit organizations managing lean budgets, no one is in a position to dream big right now. However, despite our facility challenges, people find community and belonging within our walls. And we remain hopeful that through our steadfast commitment to maintaining what we have for the community, we can one day, reach a place where we can dream big and open new skating facilities that we can truly be proud of once again.

Thank you for your time and your investment in learning more about Madison's Ice Rinks and all the organizations that rely on these facilities. Please support the Ice Arena Resolution (Legistar #86169) to

safeguard these programs for Madison's families and future generations. The rinks are more than facilities—they are the heart of our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Laura Franzen-Elmer

608-514-3125

Madison Ice, Inc. President-Elect

Figure Skating Club of Madison Treasurer

Polar Cap Alumni Parent

Memorial High School Hockey Parent

From: [Kristen Froncek](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:50:44 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kristen.froncek@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

Thank you so much for considering!!

Kristen and Teddy Froncek
Millie (4) recent teddy bears graduate
Ferris (2) future skater and hockey player

From: [Renee Gaudreau](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 12:21:06 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from renee.gaudreau5@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon Mayor Rhodes-Conway and City of Madison Alders,
I am writing to ask you to support the Madison Ice Arena resolution that will be before you on Tuesday, January 14th.

I grew up on the east side of Madison and spent my entire life there until my children were school age and we still have deep ties to the east side of Madison.

For the past 11 years we have enjoyed a sport we never thought we would be a part of. At 4 years-old, my oldest son was invited to a birthday party at a hockey rink. He fell in love and that started our hockey journey that we've been immersed in for the past 11 years. The thought of losing Hartmeyer for my children and those that come after them is heartbreaking. For many children (mine included) this is the only sport they play. They are able to play hockey throughout the whole year and the relationships and friendships that we've built have been incredible. Without hockey my children wouldn't have learned so many important life skills that you gain from winning, losing, being a part of a team, being coached, bringing others up when they're down, banding together and so much more. The skills that children learn from youth sports are undoubtedly skills they will use their entire life.

Hockey players from Monona, Cottage Grove, and the Greater East Side of Madison and beyond, NEED Hartmeyer if they have any chance of playing hockey in the future. Unfortunately ice time is already a high need due to the limited number of ice available in Dane County. Without Hartmeyer, hundreds of children will be left out of playing a sport they love.

Since my youth I've watched youth sports dwindle down in so many ways. What once was an opportunity for all is now unfortunately an opportunity for few and in some cases, none.

Please consider voting in favor of the Madison Ice Arena's Resolution on Tuesday, January 14th.

Thank you,
Matt and Renee Gaudreau

From: [PYHA President](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [PYHA President](#); [David Gauder](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Areas Resolution (#86169) - Fully Supported
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:02:05 PM
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from president@patriotshockey.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Madison Alders,

I implore you to support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) for the betterment of current and future youth of the Madison area along with their respective families.

- The Madison rinks are in dire need of material operational updates to remain open and viable for the hundreds of thousands of visitors they host each year
- East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC) brings needed resources and fresh leadership to Hartmeyer for the long-term eliminating the burden on the City while providing a no-worse-off downside to the city if EMIC unexpectedly falls short on its intent

I'm father of two skaters, and active hockey player, former UW Badger, and Madison resident (I currently reside in Monona), and am the President of the Patriots Youth Hockey Association (based out of Hartmeyer) who's mission is to "Provide the lifelong gift of hockey". Without these rinks, there is no gift to give the 300+ year over year youth members of our association. Further, Madison doesn't uphold its legacy in offering diversity in athletics, arts, and services that it is known for.

Kind Regards,

David

David B. Gauder
President - Patriots Youth Hockey Association
Email: President@patriotshockey.org
Website: <https://www.patriotshockey.org>
Mobile 612.805.8709

From: [david gebauer](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice arena bailout
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 9:26:44 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dag2149@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am very concerned about the Mayor's proposal to write off the loan for the ice arenas without doing a more in depth business analysis and looking at more other options. Especially after the Mayor's office claims to be strapped for funds and the need for more funding via the referendum. The Mayor and those who support the proposed bailout should be embarrassed. This is the taxpayers money and the city office is not being conscientious about managing it. Slow down!!! Give time for other proposals to be reviewed. That would be sound business management.

--

David Gebauer

From: [Barb Geurts](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Resolution
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 11:01:20 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from geurts1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am sending this email to ask Mayor Rhodes-Conway and ALL of the Common Council to support the Resolution #86169 for the Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

My reason for asking all of you to support this endeavor is immeasurable to the entire Madison community and surrounding areas. This facility has provided activity for everyone from very young to adulthood. The Arena provides many opportunities and lessons regarding ones health, education and social needs. Most importantly, the Arena involves so many youth who make very positive choices for living life.

The Hockey program is exceptional with helping my grandchildren gain confidence in oneself and success in so many other ways. The staff of coaches and facility managers are outstanding.

However, the facility is in dire need of upgrades to maintain all the services/programs the building has provided for so many in the Madison and surrounding areas. This facility is essential to the community, please don't let it disappear. Pass the Resolution #86169.

Thank you for taking the time and reading my concerns.

Barbara Geurts

Concerned Grandmother

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Proposal #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:42:51 AM

Alders,

I'm forwarding along this email that was received in the Council Office inbox.

Thanks,
Debbie Fields
Program Assistant 2
Common Council Office
608-266-4297

-----Original Message-----

From: Barb And Jerry Geurts <geurts1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:57 PM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Proposal #86169

[You don't often get email from geurts1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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I write in support of proposal #86169 regarding Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

I have lived in and around Madison since I started school here in 1968. There has always been a Hartmeyer. The Badgers played hockey there. Our family skated there. Now, we are going there more often to watch three grandsons play hockey.

There should have been regular upkeep for a facility that is used continuously by hundreds of people a day.

Sincerely, Jerry Geurts

Sent from my iPad

From: [Zachary Goepfinger](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Common Council Agenda Item 86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:34:44 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from zgoepfinger@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good Afternoon Alders,

I'm writing in support of the debt forgiveness proposal for Hartmeyer and MIA hockey rinks. I'm also part of East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC) as a Director.

I started with this cause because I felt Madison, WI deserved a better place to play hockey, amongst all the other ice sports that can be played year round. Playing hockey changed my life for the better. I was out of shape and didn't have many friends growing up, due to being shy. Hockey opened my horizons, made winters more palatable, and I now have life long friends that I keep in contact with and play alongside today.

Fast forward to today - my son has struggled with depression and anxiety in school, and when trying to reach out to classmates to establish relationships, despite being giving and a kind heart, has met cold shoulders. This led to a major depressive episode recently, which almost cost him his life. He went to the hospital and an inpatient stay for help. While in there, one of the things that he was looking forward to, was getting back to playing hockey with his team. Over the 4 years he's played, they have given him a healthy outlet to be social and enhance mental health. Once out of the clinic, he specifically told me that he is glad that he's in hockey, because it is really positive for his mental health.

Over the last 4 years, I've been a hockey coach and coordinator for the Rec Hockey program at the Patriots, which is hosted at Hartmeyer. There is not another program like this in Dane county this season. No other Association could host it. The Patriots at Hartmeyer refuse to give it up, because it offers kids of all backgrounds and income levels a chance to have that positive outlet in hockey. It has been my absolute pleasure to help the Patriots grow that program in a way that has welcomed all kids. We've had kids from the Black community, Latin(x) community, a couple kids with Autism, and several players who needed to have financial assistance for free gear and to play for free. It was INCREDIBLE to see the children with Autism take to the game and be competitive. I was so proud of them as an older brother and alternate guardian to my Brother Coty, who is cognitively disabled.

From Matt's PowerPoint out of the Econ. Development committee - this plan saves the city and taxpayers a ton of money by allowing us to be the drivers to keeping the rinks going.

I think that Hartmeyer and the East Side Hockey Community gets its best chance at continuing to provide a positive outlet for kids with this plan. From there- we can work alongside the City to grow the East Side Fitness and Wellness plan as proud partners in bringing Madison's East side awesome outlets to have an amazing life in our beautiful city.

Please vote yes to this proposal.

Thanks,
Zach Goepfinger
608-445-3551

From: [Andrea Graham](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Vote Yes to Save Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:16 AM

You don't often get email from andreaee@graham@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to ask that you vote yeas to pass the resolution regarding the funding for Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

Hartmeyer is a needed and wanted part of the Madison community and if it were to no longer exist, ice rink sports in the area would be missed and many people would lose their community activities.

My sons have participated in learn to skate and are hockey players for the Madison Patriots. Our family lives in Lake Mills and we do not have a hockey rink in Jefferson County. We had the choice of attending many ice rinks for learn to skate and hockey, but we chose Hartmeyer due to its friendly community and location in Madison as opposed to surrounding communities. Our participation at Harmeyer allows us to come to the city of Madison for extracurricular activities, food and shopping. This is more than just about the ice rink, it's about the entire community.

Although we love our beloved Hartmeyer, the rink is in need of significant improvements to sustain the community it brings together.

Please support this resolution to keep Harmeyer, a historic building in Madison, running for generations to come!

Thank you,
Andrea and David Graham

From: [Bob Gramling](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:43 AM

You don't often get email from rfgsenior@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good afternoon Mayor Rhodes-Conway and City of Madison Alders,

We are writing to ask you to support the Madison Ice Arena resolution that will be before you on Tuesday, January 14th.

We moved to Madison in the 70's and have continued to enjoy all that Madison has to offer. While our kids are grown and moved away, we enjoy watching our grandkids do what they love. 2 of our grandsons play hockey for the Madison Patriots Youth Hockey Association. We've been fortunate enough to live close to their home rink and be able to watch them through the years.

The Madison Ice Arena Resolution will allow them to continue to play a sport they enjoy. Without the resolution passing, they will undoubtedly be forced to give up playing hockey as there isn't another rink they could play at. Ice time in Dane County is hard to find due to the high interest in youth hockey.

As our kids grew, we've watched youth sports dwindle down in so many ways. What once was an opportunity for all is now unfortunately an opportunity for few and in some cases, none. That will be the case for hundreds of hockey players in the event the resolution doesn't go through.

For years Hartmeyer has been in dire shape. We are finally at a place where we have extremely interested and invested potential owners to bring Hartmeyer back to a state that it once was. Hartmeyer desperately needs updates to its infrastructure. Without this resolution, there is no potential buyer that can afford to do this.

Please support the Madison Ice Arena Resolution to help secure funding for these necessary improvements.

Thank you,
Bob and Rose Gramling
5120 Spaanem Ave
Madison, WI 53716

From: [Shara Greidanus](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Greidanus Family Support for Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:03 AM

You don't often get email from slr.greidanus@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Members of the Madison Common Council,

I am writing to express my family's strong support for the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169). As lifelong supporters of local ice arenas, we believe this resolution is critical to preserving Hartmeyer Ice Arena and ensuring it remains a vibrant community resource for future generations.

My husband and I both grew up in small towns in Wisconsin, where our local ice arenas were central to our childhoods. Whether it was open skate nights, birthday parties, or just hanging out with friends, the rink was a safe and fun gathering place. Now, as longtime residents of Madison's East Side, we've seen how ice arenas like Hartmeyer continue to play a transformative role in people's lives, including those of our three boys.

All three of our sons have found their passion in hockey, with our oldest discovering a new sense of confidence and community through the sport. Being part of the Patriots Hockey program at Hartmeyer has been an incredible experience for our family. However, we see the potential for the program and the facility to grow and provide even more for the community if proper funding and improvements are secured.

Some of the much-needed updates include:

- A fully functional and heated space, allowing all families, including aging grandparents, to comfortably enjoy watching their loved ones play.
- Improved facilities that could attract regional tournaments and visitors from places like Chicago and Minneapolis, enhancing Madison's visibility and economic opportunities.
- Maintenance and upgrades to ensure the rink remains a safe and welcoming environment for all users, from hockey players to figure skaters to recreational skaters.

Hartmeyer Ice Arena has given so much to our family and countless others. It's more than just a rink—it's a place where confidence is built, friendships are formed, and lifelong memories are made. With the passage of this resolution, we can ensure that future generations have access to these same opportunities and experiences.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important resolution. We urge you to vote in favor of it and invest in the future of Madison's ice arenas.

Sincerely,

Shara and Steve Greidanus and family (William age 12, Zachary age 10 and Raymond age 6)

From: [April Grogan](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: EMIC support
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:59:22 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from aprilgrogan11@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

I am writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.”

The east side has so few sport facilities for kids so this structure and East Madison Little League are so valuable. With the increase in housing and incoming residents we need this for our community.

Thank you so much for considering!!

April Grogan

From: [Dan Groth](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Consider Supporting the Madison Area Ice Rinks!
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:56:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dsowgroth@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alder's,

I am writing on behalf of my family who have utilized both Madison rinks for learn-to-skate programs, learn to play hockey, birthday parties as well as travel hockey. The ice-skating community is in need of your support in addressing the urgent needs of Madison's ice rinks. These facilities are critical to our community and require immediate attention to avoid a total shutdown, which would leave thousands of residents without access to recreational and competitive skating opportunities.

Time is of the essence. Currently, the Hartmeyer Ice Arena faces several critical issues:

- **Leaking roof:** During heavy rains or winter warming periods, water enters the building, further degrading the structure.
- **Failing refrigeration system:** Only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the system is operational, which means a single failure could render the ice unusable.
- **Zamboni breakdowns:** The ice resurfer has experienced two issues this week alone and is limping along.
- **Inadequate heating:** The building's heating system is almost non-existent, making it challenging for users and staff.

While there has been discussion about the potential for a new multi-sport facility, this does not address Hartmeyer's immediate needs. A new facility, although a nice idea, would take years to plan, fund, and construct. Without urgent updates, Hartmeyer is unlikely to make it through the next year, leaving the Eastside skating community without an ice skating facility. Additionally, the cost of a new facility would likely require significant support from City, County, and State governments to ensure its long-term viability.

EMIC's proposal is the most viable solution to protect these critical facilities without adding strain to the City's operating budget. Our non-profit organization is committed to raising the \$3 million needed for immediate repairs and ensuring long-term sustainability for the ice rinks. This community-led effort eliminates the need for additional City expenditure while safeguarding these facilities for future generations.

Please support resolution #86169 allowing EMIC to take over operations and commit to the necessary improvements. These rinks serve over 450,000 visits annually, supporting youth hockey, figure skating, adaptive skating programs, and recreational skating, all of which contribute to the vibrancy of our community and economy.

I would be happy to provide further information or answer any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Dan Groth
608-444-1569

From: [Tom Groth](#)
To: [Alex Saloutos](#)
Cc: [Mikolajewski, Matthew](#); [All Alders](#); [Dan O'Connell](#); [Dan OConnell](#); [thomas conti](#); [Knepp, Eric](#); [Davis, Norman](#); [Schmiedicke, David](#); [thomas conti](#); [Dan Groth](#); [Tom Groth](#)
Subject: Re: Proposal to forgive Madison Ice, Inc.'s \$1.6 million debt, and authorize the sale of Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena for \$1 each, Legistar ID no. 86169.
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 5:44:14 PM
Attachments: [241118 BLOGPOST ICEARENAS QUESTIONS V2.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from thos.groth@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Alex et al.,

Another well written blog. Thank you for sharing.

I am not concerned if the city provides financial support for indoor ice arenas. The city does a horrible job supporting youth sports. East, West, and Kennedy little leagues play on private land, one city pool, and one city community recreation center for a city the size of Madison is unconscionable. They spend more on Olbrich Gardens (\$2.5M) than the rest combined.

The one thing MII has done is save the city an estimated \$8M in ice enterprise subsidy the past 20 years. Otherwise they have proven to be a poorly run organization with a shady track record.

If this resolution is passed - are the ice rinks set up for success is my question.

What is going to be different after they forgive the loan and sell/lease the facilities? The rinks have four decades of deferred maintenance and cannot generate enough revenue through day to day operation to make capital improvements and keep them in good repair. Requiring ongoing multi-million dollar fundraising. MII has proven they have not been successful with their lip-stick-on-a-pig approach to capital improvement fundraising. MII is not meeting the west side skating community needs. The HIA skating community has been forced to pitch in for repairs just to keep the facility open.

The youth organization at MIA (Polar Caps) buy half of their ice time outside of the city. The west side high school programs practice at 6:00 AM, 4:00 PM, and 9:00 PM each week. They say if a player gets sick it takes weeks for them to get better because of the lack of sleep.

The youth hockey organization at HIA (Madison Patriots) are historically 50% from outside of Madison. East and LaFollette co-op high school program participation is very low. That is masked at the youth level because three high schools are combined into the Patriots program. HIA is in need of millions in capital improvements. More than the \$3M EMIC has suggested.

Ryan Suter tried to takeover HIA in 2017/2018 to make improvements and host USHL games. He was turned down by MII and then spent \$2M+ renovating Capital ice arena. He was interested in taking over HIA again in 2023. He was turned down again and then went and invested in the \$16M DeForest ice arena.

The opportunity that EMIC missed in 2023 was to negotiate with Ryan Suter the improvements at HIA and guaranteed ice times and then remove themselves from the negotiations. Their blind ambition to 'own' and operate an ice arena did not allow them to work with Suter for the betterment of the community.

EMIC should have spent their time and effort working with Cottage Grove to place a single sheet ice rink in CG and to separate the Patriots into East/LaFollette (stay at HIA) and Monona Grove (move to CG) youth programs.

This would have created an environment for the East, LaFollette, and Monona Grove youth and high school programs to THRIVE and for both Ryan Suter and EMIC to operate single sheet ice arenas.

I am not sure what to suggest at this point. Suter has invested in DeForest and wants to expand his Middleton

rink. I am not sure if he has the interest to take on HIA and make the necessary repairs.

My guess is if this resolution is passed one if not both of the non-profits will not be able to fundraise to keep the aging money pit rinks operational and will be back within the next 10 years looking for another city bailout.

Best regards,

Tom Groth
Co-Founder Madison Ice Inc.

On Jan 10, 2025, at 4:27 PM, asaloutos@tds.net wrote:

Hi, Matt!

Thank you for all of your hard work on this project. I hope the attached questions, along with their answers, can contribute to a more thoughtful and informed discussion by the Council regarding this resolution. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration.

Cheers,

A large, handwritten signature in thick black ink, consisting of the letters 'A' and 'S' written in a cursive, stylized manner. The 'A' is formed by a single continuous stroke that loops at the top and descends. The 'S' is formed by a second stroke that starts below the 'A', loops around it, and extends to the right.

Alex Saloutos
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Cell: (608) 345-9009
Email: asaloutos@tds.net

From: [Tara Groth](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:53:33 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tara.groth18@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders and Mayor of Madison,

I am writing to you in support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution. Although I have not personally played hockey for the Patriots hockey association, I have been involved as one of few female coaches in the area and the association since my son started learn to skate about 7 or 8 years ago. I had no idea how much I would volunteer my time and effort to this association to mentor youth in the coming years. Nor would I have imagined how much opportunity and support the association would give me as I embarked on the journey to cofound the Madison Dragons girls hockey program (established in 2023).

Despite having a 40 year legacy of youth hockey, there was no long lived, lasting primary girls hockey program within Dane county. There were programs designed as cross roster teams, meaning the player had to first be on a coed team and then they could participate on a girls team on the side if they had time after meeting all the obligations of their coed team. The logistics of this was cumbersome and did not give girls the opportunity to only play girls hockey nor did it work out for all girls to participate in the girls cross roster team all the time.

For nearly all other youth sports, there is the opportunity for females play alongside their female peers. Research has showed the benefits of all female teams include longer retention of girls in sport. There has been a good amount of research that has come out of the Women's Sports Foundation (<https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/do-you-know-the-factors-influencing-girls-participation-in-sports/>)

looking at why so many girls drop out of sports by the time they 14 years old including lack of access, safety and transportation issues, social stigma, decreased quality of experience, cost and lack of positive role models. There is great value in girls staying in sports through High School including better self image, learning life skills like teamwork and leadership, boosting confidence, reducing risk of breast cancer later in life and correlates to higher levels of family satisfaction.

Hockey is one of the only sports that does not offer primary female hockey teams consistently in Wisconsin (like they do in other states like MD and MN, for example). A big reason for this is lack of resources, mainly ice availability. There are only 2 rinks that house youth hockey programs in Madison, Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena. For a city the size of Madison, this greatly limits the number of youth that can participate in the sport of hockey.

Interestingly, both hockey associations that operate out of Madison Ice Arena (West Madison Polar Caps) and Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison

Patriots/Dragons) house the only primary girls hockey teams in Dane county! To suffer a shut down of either rink will greatly reduce the opportunity for girls to participate in primary girls hockey opportunities in Dane county. We are finally making some progress to offer females the opportunity to play hockey amongst their female peers and ensuring equal and fair ice time is key to accomplishing this task. If either rink would shut down, this great opportunity for the girls of Dane county would be dramatically affected. Additionally, the West Madison Polar caps, Madison Patriots/Dragons and Sun Prairie youth hockey association have worked collaboratively to increase the amount of female hockey coaches with mentoring efforts utilizing the girls hockey programs. These efforts would also suffer if the Madison ice rinks did not exist.

I, personally, have had the opportunity to experience all the benefits of playing girls youth hockey when I was growing up in Mosinee, WI and then later playing on the UW Madison women's club team in college (1999-2001). My whole drive and purpose these last 2+ years has been to allow my daughter and her peers the same opportunity that I had and to reap the same benefits. I wholeheartedly believe in sports serving as teaching tools to prepare our youth for adulthood. Sports opportunities is an asset to communities both now and with effects far in the future as our youth grow into tomorrows leaders/parents/adults.

I will be attending the meeting on January 14th. I did not volunteer to speak but I am happy to answer any questions about this email and what it means for this resolution to pass. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Tara Groth
608-206-9310

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Abby Halloran](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Resolution #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:31 PM

You don't often get email from abbyhalloran@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I'm writing to implore you, as a Madison resident and regular user of Hartmyer Ice Arena, to pass the Ice Arena Resolution that is on tonight's docket.

I have been using Hartmyer Ice Arena since I was a young child learning to ice skate, playing in the East HS Pep Band at hockey games as a high school student, and now my son, a hockey player on the high school co-op team South Central Navigators, utilizes the arena regularly for games and practices. It is wonderful to not have to drive out to Waunakee (which is usually where practices are held for the Navigators) and to have an arena that we can actually use in our own neighborhood. My son absolutely LOVES playing hockey and it has proven to be such a healthy outlet for him. When we are there, it's obvious that some updates are needed and our family is encouraged by the compromises that have been put forth in this resolution, and by the dedication of the East Madison Ice Collective.

Community events around shared interests, such as ice sports, are absolutely vital these days when people are lonelier than ever. Especially in Wisconsin's hard winters, the programs offered to the community by Hartmyer are essential to getting some enjoyment and camaraderie during the cold and dark winters, as well as a healthy form of exercise and entertainment. Please do what we can as Madisonians to continue to offer this community service to us - it is extremely meaningful to my family!

Thank you very much for your work on this.

Abigail Halloran
2338 Upham St
Madison WI 53704
608-235-7460

From: [Daniel Halloran](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:44 PM

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SAVE THE ICE

I know this is a complicated issue, as a taxpayer I don't like the idea of forgiving a loan of such a large amount but this is an exception.

Saving such a major community resource is so important right now.

People are growing more and more isolated and community is critical for our mental health.

As a new member of the hockey community I have seen how much a place like Hartmeyer can bring people together. Kids and parents alike bond together through the time spent on or around the ice.

Please let the arena continue to be an impactful part of our lives.

Thank you,

Daniel Halloran
Concerned Resident

From: [Kristin Haslow-Weiss](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:31:41 PM

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Dear City of Madison Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

Up until August of 2024, I casually knew of the ice rinks around the Madison area. In August, our eleven year old daughter decided that she wanted to try out the sport of ice hockey. Eliza has always loved skating on local ponds when our Wisconsin weather allows us to do that safely. To give her the chance to try out the sport, I went to work learning as much as I could about playing youth hockey in this area. We found a great Learn-To-Play program with the Madison Polar Caps and their youth coaches introduced us to the idea of having Eliza join a travel hockey team. After consideration, our family decided that the time and financial commitment was more than we were ready to take on at this point. The coaches then suggested that we check out Hartmeyer Ice Arena and the Patriots Youth Hockey Recreational Team.

The Patriots Youth Hockey Recreational Team has been a perfect fit. The team has allowed Eliza to improve her skating skills while learning the game along with a mix of kids around her age, some older and some younger. Some of the players have more experience and some of the players are in their first year, just like our daughter. The cost to join the program is very reasonable and we have even been able to rent some of her hockey gear from the Patriots. The coaches of the Rec Team have been great in emphasizing sportsmanship, practicing the basics to advance skills and having fun while playing the game of hockey. I have seen older, advanced players take time to teach newer, younger players and work to include them in the action on the ice. I have seen the kids lose a game and still leave the locker room smiling because it was fun to play. That feels great as a parent. Eliza has already decided that she will be signing up to play hockey with the Patriots Rec Team for the next season.

I am writing in support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169), so that not only can our daughter continue to play, but so that other kids can have the same chance. Currently, Hartmeyer and the Patriots Youth Hockey organization are the only group in Dane County with a Recreational Team option. We are Middleton residents and happily make the drive to Hartmeyer because the program fills a void not offered at other local ice arenas. If you would like to come out and watch their hard work, our next intra-squad game is February 1.

Thank you,
Kristin Haslow-Weiss

From: [Hannah Hau](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:45:09 AM

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

I am writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

Thank you for considering, and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Hannah Hau

From: [Kelsey](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Erik Hausmann](#)
Subject: Please support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:21:54 AM

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

Hartmeyer has been a part of our families since before we were born, which further demonstrates how important Hartmeyer has been to the Northside for generations. Our fathers played there for the Lakers and East growing up and my grandfather, who was the CEO of Oscar Mayer at the time, was instrumental in funding the original building of the Arena, with our fathers' hockey coach, Fenton Kelsey.

Then during high school, Erik also played for the East Purgolders at Hartmeyer.

Now, we are thrilled that our children are enjoying the Arena. Both our children have done Learn to Skate, and our son plays for the Patriots. Many of our neighbors utilize Hartmeyer for different skating opportunities.

We need to stop taking away assets from the Northside. As a community it is our job to make sure Hartmeyer is managed properly, which it is not currently. We need to make sure children on this side of town have same opportunities and resources as others and that the rich history of this building is not annihilated.

Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

Thank you for your time,
Kelsey Beach Hausmann and Erik Hausmann

From: [Ellie Hausmann](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Phil Hausmann](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:42:16 AM

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Hello Mayor and Common Council Members,

My husband (cc'd) and I are writing in strong support of the East Madison Ice Collective, which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Our two sons play hockey there and have deeply enjoyed their programming as they've learned to skate. It's part of their home at this point.

Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday, 1/14! It would mean the world to us and our children.

Ellie and Phil Hausmann

From: [Fritz Hausmann](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 6:55:08 PM

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I write this letter in support of and in hopes that you grant transfer of ownership of Hartmeyer Ice Arena to a nonprofit group comprised of the Madison Patriots Hockey Assn & Madison Figure Skating Club.

Without the vision, fundraising and tireless dedication of Mr. Fenton Kelsey and Mr. George Stockton, hockey as we know it in Madison would be nonexistent. Thru their hard work and donations from other prominent eastside residents and corporations their dream became a reality...

It would be a shame to see the "first home of Badger Hockey" go into decline due to lack of funding & support. Yes, prior to UW playing home games at the Coliseum & now the Kohl Ctr., Hartmeyer was "the home of the Badgers". Many Wisconsin youth, some famous others not, have benefited & excelled both in hockey and business thanks to hockey & Hartmeyer. I can proudly say I was one of them, playing for Coach Kelsey with the Madison Lakers, Madison East Purgolders and later thanks to Coach Kelsey, I played 4 years and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Because of Hartmeyer Arena many other Madison men / women were able to enter collegiate hockey & graduate. My sons also benefitted from the use of Hartmeyer starting w/learn to skate, playing for the Patriots, Madison East Purgolders, the Capitols and later collegiate hockey. The 3rd generation, my grandchildren, have hit the ice in learn to skate and now the Madison Patriots!

I urge you to pass resolution #86169 for the benefit of Madison's Eastside youth as well as the families that have enjoyed the use of Hartmeyer during open skate. We need to ensure that children on this side of town have equal opportunities and resources that other areas of the city of Madison offer their youth. Ice rinks in smaller towns/villages have managed to maintain ice rinks under non profits and have thrived!

Madison, the Capitol of the state, should be proud to see Hartmeyer succeed and to call Hartmeyer their ice arena. McFarland WI is a perfect example; they have been successful as a non-profit; the ice arena not only caters to ice sports (they have a great hockey program) but also helps promote the town and benefits the local businesses.

Respectfully,
Fritz J. Hausmann

From: [Paul Holzem](#)
To: [Mayor](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#)
Subject: East Madison Ice Collective
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:21:03 AM

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Madam Mayor, and Alders,

As an active voting tax payer, who has been a resident of Madison for 54 years now, I'm requesting your combined support for the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169), coming before you this evening.

This will address the needed infrastructure needs, management needs, etc, to insure access to the current skating community in Madison, and accessibility to our next generations of skaters here in Madison.

My experience with these facilities dates back 60 years. Through my personal use, multiple friends (who played hockey & figure skated), my children's usage and now my grand children's use, we need to retain these facilities.

Surly this multigenerational athletic opportunity should be retained in our community.

I thank you for your time and support.

Regards,
Paul Holzem
5601 Comanche Way
Madison WI.

From: [Maureen Holzem](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: East Madison Ice Collective Resolution #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:22:06 AM

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Dear Alders and Madam Mayor,

I am asking for your support of Madison Ice Arenas Resolution, #86169, that will be discussed this evening. I have been a Northside resident for the past 48 years. Our children took skating lessons there in the 80's, we have watched many East High School hockey games there and now our grandchildren are taking skating lessons at Hartmeyer. It is an important public Northside recreational facility that people of all ages enjoy and should be retained.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Respectfully,
Maureen Holzem
5601 Comanche Way
Madison, WI

Sent from my iPad

From: [Carlie Jarvey](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:33:30 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to ask for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West). The Common Council will consider the Ice Arena Resolution, which would provide critical funding for much-needed infrastructure updates for both of Madison's community ice rinks.

For 74 years, these rinks have been pillars of our community, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. They host several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

Here's why this resolution is crucial:

- Operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks operational.
- Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability.
- With proper investment and support, these facilities can continue to thrive for years to come.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Your support can make a lasting impact on our community and help preserve these ice rinks as a vital community asset for many years to come!

Sincerely,
Carlie Jarvey

Wildwood South Neighborhood

From: [Andy Johnson](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Resolution #86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:24:50 PM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a small business owner who depends on an active youth sports community, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational programs have on young people. In addition, our business relies on a thriving hockey culture in Dane County, without hockey our business would not be able to provide business back into the city via sales and property taxes, donations into youth programs, etc.

Facilities like the ice arena provide a safe and welcoming environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. I myself have (4) kids that actively participate in the Patriots hockey program, without that program my kids would be forced to leave the sport and be devastated in the process.

This thoughtful use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Thanks,
Andy

--

Andy Johnson
Owner - Play It Again Sports Madison
6674 Odana Rd., Madison, WI 53719
www.playitagainsportsmadison.com
Cell: 608.692.5455
Store: 608.824.3920



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From: dndjones@charter.net
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:06:29 PM

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We are writing to express our support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This resolution will allow new opportunities to expand and enhance youth programs and opportunities.

As grandparents and city residents of Madison, we have two young children that have just started skating. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that ice sports and recreational programs have on our youth. We applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. The use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to support.

Thank You for your leadership and consideration.

David and Diane Jones

From: [Jen](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In Support of Resolution #86169
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:50 AM

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I am writing in support of Resolution #86169 (the Madison ice arena contracts).

My family has been active at Hartmeyer since 2011 when our son started playing hockey with the Madison Patriots at 5 years old. He finished his hockey career as a Varsity player at Monona Grove High School. Our daughter now plays hockey with the Madison Dragons. All 3 of those teams use Hartmeyer as their home rink.

People ask me all the time why I support youth hockey so much. My response: have you ever seen a group of 6 years olds, in gear that weighs more than they do, waiting at the rink door for the Zamboni to finish so that they can skate? The look of excitement on their faces, the adrenaline coursing through their little bodies, the giggles as some of them inevitably topple over. THAT is youth hockey. THAT is why we need places like Hartmeyer in Madison.

Please pass this resolution to secure the funding necessary to make the urgent infrastructure updates needed to keep Hartmeyer operational. Closing Hartmeyer would be devastating. It is an iconic part of the east side of Madison. Hartmeyer is a true gathering and recreation space that brings people to the area.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kelley
4600 Tonyawatha Trl
Monona

From: [Joseph Keyes](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Oppose Common Council Agenda Item 86169 - Ice Arena Debt Forgiveness & \$1.00 Sale of Land
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:58:59 PM

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Mayor City of Madison & Common Council,

A definition of insanity is, “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Given today’s story in the Wisconsin State Journal entitled “Timeline: Madison’s Ice Arena Problem Dates All the Way Back to the 1960s”, that is exactly what the City of Madison is trying to do with the current resolution. That article notes a long history of failed attempts and unkept promises to keep the rinks open. The Madison taxpayer should not be on the hook to ensure these facilities are viable. If those ice arena users value those facilities, they must cover the cost of operations, maintenance and repairs through their user fees. If those users do not wish to pay those costs, then the city should take back the properties and have them redeveloped into badly needed housing. This will keep those properties on the tax roll and provide tax revenue to cover the tax revenue demands from the newly passed property tax referendum when those arenas are redeveloped. Please vote no on this item and consider the aforementioned alternatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Keyes

District 11

From: [Mary Kinsey](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Resolution #86169
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:07:10 PM

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Dear Madison Alders and Madison Mayor,

My name is Mary Kinsey and I live at 737 Amnicon Trail. I am writing to ask that you support the Ice Arena Resolution in front of the Common Council on January 14. Madison's ice arenas are in great need of infrastructure updates to remain operational. Your vote in support of this resolution will help make sure that these necessary improvements happen, as well as ensuring that the rinks remain a resource for our youth and community.

My family has been playing hockey at Hartmeyer for the past 9 years. Both of my children currently skate for the Madison Patriots and one will move to the Navigators (high school team) next year. This sport has helped both of my children grow in so many social and emotional ways. Both of my children also gave up other sports they enjoyed to play hockey (because they enjoyed what hockey had to offer more). If Hartmeyer is no longer operational, my children (and hundreds of other youth) will lose a place they call home. Hartmeyer (and the Madison Patriots community) has become a second home to my family.

I appreciate your time. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Mary Kinsey
Madison resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katrina Ladopoulos](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:47 PM

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Good Evening,

I'm writing to ask for your support of the Ice Arena Resolution (**Agenda Item/file #86169**). I started figure skating with my son 12 years ago at a series of outdoor lessons taught by Madison Ice Arena instructors at Tenney Park. I lived in the Town of Oregon at the time, but drove to Madison for the lessons. My son and I continued taking lessons at Madison Ice Arena. We now live in Middleton, 5 minutes from an ice arena. However, we prefer Madison and Hartmeyer Ice Arenas. They welcome skaters of all levels and skating interest.

Skating has become a major part of my life (along with teaching in Madison Schools) and my son's. We both skate on synchronized skating teams. During covid, we were able to continue practicing together and learned ice dance together. I also skate free style and showcase and have been to Adult Nationals. I'm on the boards for the Figure Skating Club of Madison and the Madison Ice Diamonds. I made a successful bid to bring the 2025 Midwestern Adult Sectional Championships to Madison Ice Arena. Skating is very important to our family and our community. Our teams help kids (and adults) learn how to persevere and support one another. We learn healthy habits and stay active all year round. Skating has supported my positive mental health.

The 2 ice arenas are an important part of our community. I don't know what I would do without them. Please support this resolution.

Katrina Ladopoulos
Middleton, WI

From: [Helen Leong](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Field, Derek](#)
Subject: Support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:56:19 PM

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Dear City Council,

Thank you for taking up this resolution for consideration, I am writing to ask you to support it. I didn't grow up with ice skating and hockey as available sports. I found these when my family relocated to Wisconsin. My son started at Hartmeyer Ice Arena at a Try Hockey for Free event. He was 8 years old and fell in love. We signed up for Learn Hockey classes and did that for two years before I let him join a team. He joined the Recreational Hockey Team through the Patriots at Hartmeyer Ice Arena, and eventually joined a competitive travel team. Together, our family traveled the state through ice hockey, learning about each community through their ice arenas. He now plays for the South Central Navigators for La Follette High School. We may not know much about some Wisconsin communities, but we know each community's sheet of ice. Hartmeyer is our favorite sheet of ice. These many years later, my daughter now plays on the Recreational Hockey team, and I serve as the Team Manager. In just the last few years, all other Dane County area clubs have dropped their Recreational programs – the Patriots Recreational Team at Hartmeyer is the only one left.

The Recreational Hockey program is a critical, inclusive on-ramp for families of all kinds for the sport of ice hockey. Hockey is supposed be part of Wisconsin's culture – something the state is proud of and supports. Part of that means supporting the ice rinks where this sport is happening. Many players on the South Central Navigators, which includes both East High School and La Follette skaters, came through this Recreational program at Hartmeyer. It brings players into a sport in a way that no other ice sheet in Dane County is doing. Please support this resolution. We need solutions and a way to move forward on big infrastructure improvements before it becomes too late. This is the way.

Please support Resolution #86169.

Thanks,

Helen Leong, Team Manager; Oscar Leong, S.C. Navigator & 9th grader; and Delia Leong, Patriots Recreational Team & 4th grader

206 Windsor Court, Madison

From: [Kevin Litwicki](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: RE: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 1:25:22 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am sending you this email in full support of the above resolution.

Having played ice hockey for the last 46 years.....the local ice rink has always provided me an opportunity to participate in the sport that shaped me as a kid. As I got older, I realized the impact that hockey and my local rink had on shaping the person that I've grown to become. I learned that hard work pays off and the importance of respecting myself and others.

Now as a hockey-parent and coach, I'm able to watch my family and other families in the community....learn these same life lessons and grow as respectable members of our community. The joy and excitement that we feel every time we step through the doors of Hartmeyer, cannot be understated. It's a community that continues to grow and provide a place to share the excitement of stepping on the ice for the 1,000th time or the 1st time.....the smiles are always the same.

I continue to play as an adult in the Monday night adult league, and I'm fortunate enough to play on the firefighters team. It's a great opportunity for all of us to take a break from those stresses in our lives and step onto the ice and continue to play the game that we love. We often chat about the history of the adult league, which is one of the oldest in the area. A league that has seen many former high-level skaters, including a few former Badger men and women skaters. It's always fun to think that I'm skating in the same building that the UW Badgers played in at one time.

I fully support this resolution. The positive impact that this rink continues to have on so many....I'm excited at the thought of what can happen with the passing of this resolution.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!

Respectfully,

KEVIN T. LITWICKI

Senior Mortgage Advisor | NMLS#289959
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From: [Molly Lohr](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:14:34 AM

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Dear council members,

I am writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

As a proud life long Northside, who now is raising children on the northside, this resource to children and our community is worth saving and improving. My two children are learning to skate and play hockey at Hartmeyer currently. Allow them to continue this.

Thank you for your vote and support.

Molly Lohr
Nellie 5 years old (Madison patriot and snow plow skater)
Patrick 3 years old (teddy bear skater)

From: [Miriam López](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 4:09:05 PM

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Hi Alders + Mayor -

My name is Miriam Lopez and I live at 2429 Dunns Marsh Rd., Madison, WI. I am writing to express my support of the Hartmeyer Resolution as voted on by the finance committee.

My daughter has been introduced to skating because of all the wonderful community programming offered at the rinks. She participated in the ice shows that are open to the Learn to Skate programs and found her love of skating through it. Her coach was even able to speak with her in Spanish to make her feel comfortable and understand the instruction!

Please don't take away our ice rinks. We need accessible programming in Madison. This is my community.

Thank you,

Miriam Lopez

From: [Ted Losby](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Legistar #86169 -
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 4:51:41 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from tkmosby@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Alders,

We write asking you to defer this resolution in order to fully consider solutions that prioritize equity, fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Kathy and Ted Losby

From: [Bridget Lucas](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:59:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bgerner@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern:

I just returned home from picking up my 9 year old from hockey at 9 and my 7 year old at 7 pm to receive an email about keeping Hartmeyer open. we moved to madison 4 years ago in the midst of covid and hartmeyer helped our kids be active in winter, off of electronics and devices.

My kids love skating, working hard, being part of a team, kids being from different parts of madison, bringing us all together. They may go to different schools, but the kids all come together and bond through hockey and their neighborhood. Our boys have become better skaters, teammates, and problem solvers. As a team we support local businesses following practices/games nearby.

Hockey at Hartmeyer is one of the two sports that we participate in Madison (EMLL). Unfortunately for all the other activities and sports our boys participate in neighboring towns.

PLEASE do not, take away ONE safe, active place for the east side families. We RELY AND DEPEND on it.

--

Bridget Lucas
bgerner@gmail.com
(608)-692-4900

From: [jim_marshall](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:34:30 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from jimmarshall22@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hello all. I urge you to please vote NO to shutting down hartmeyer ice arena. As a resident of Madison my entire life, I have attended hockey games of all sorts from youth to high school over the years, as well as open skate. My Dad used to take my Brother and I to games here all the time which obviously is a fond childhood memory of mine, and now I have watched my son learn to play hockey here and thrive on his current team. Hartmeyer has been a staple of the Madison community and serves an incredibly important role in youth sports and activities. Shutting Hartmeyer down would be detrimental to many many families and especially kids in the community and surrounding areas. I urge you to keep Hartmeyer open so we may be able to continue watching games and supporting our teams as well as developing our youth in the community for years to come!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lucas Marshall](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: in support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:56 AM

You don't often get email from lucasmarsall2024@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I'm reaching out to as loudly as I can to voice my support for the Madison Ice Arena Resolution (#86169). As a lifetime east Madison resident, Hartmeyer has left a profound impact on my life. It started when I was 6 years old and first walked through the doors for a learn to skate program and continues some 30 years later, when I walk through the same doors as a volunteer youth hockey coach for my children's hockey teams. The life and community skills I learned while playing hockey at Hartmeyer continue to guide me through life every day. Inside those 4 walls I learned the value of hard work, teamwork, respect, friendship, trust, confidence, commitment, leadership and community. I didn't realize at the time but the skills I acquired inside Hartmeyer have carried me through life in so many ways. These skills helped me refocus my life and transform from a 7th grade child arrested for vandalism into a graduating high school senior with a 3.95 gpa preparing to set my hockey aspirations aside for a moment and focus on the next chapter of my life as an adult member of the community. The commitment and perseverance skills I learned at Hartmeyer enabled me to excel while studying engineering at Milwaukee School of Engineering. After college I returned home to Madison, because it is a community that I love and respect for so many reasons. When my children started playing hockey for the Madison Patriots I was ecstatic to volunteer to coach, because I know first hand how impactful a coach can be on a child's life. I am overjoyed seeing the smiles on the kids' faces during games and practice, but I sleep well knowing that I have a role in helping these kids learn the same skills I did, skills that will carry them through life and may one day help pull them from a dark place to a bright one. I strongly believe the only way we can build a strong, respectful and blossoming community is to help teach the young people in Madison the skills they will need to be successful in life, Hartmeyer is just one of the places we have to do this, this is why I am writing to ask you to pass this resolution.

Thank you,

Lucas Marshall

From: [Stephanie Marshall](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: resolution #86169
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:50:47 PM

You don't often get email from smmarshall15@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good evening,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a parent, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational programs have on young people. Facilities like the ice arena provide a safe and welcoming environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. This thoughtful use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

I'm sorry that there is an outspoken minority of members of the community that vocally oppose this plan. It seems to me that they don't fully understand the details and only see a large dollar number. This is short sighted and doesn't reflect the values of our community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Stephanie Marshall

From: [Amie Martin](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [Matt Martin](#)
Subject: Resolution (#86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:35:16 PM

You don't often get email from aagroleau@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Madison Common Council Alders,

Our names are Matt and Amie Martin, Monona residents and Madison tax payers. We are writing in support of resolution 86169 that would provide the means for urgent upgrades to our area ice rinks and in particular, Hartmeyer Ice Arena, a place that is near and dear to our family.

We have been involved with learn to skate and hockey at Hartmeyer for nearly a decade. Our family spends hours at the rink each week during the months of September through March. Hockey is a big part of our lives with our freshman son playing for Monona Grove High School JV and our seventh grade son playing for one of the Madison Patriots Peewee teams. The personal stories we could share about the rink are plentiful but some special moments that come to mind are seeing kids from various schools (Madison, Cottage Grove, Monona) grow together as friends and teammates, welcoming families from all over the state to Hartmeyer to watch their favorite hockey player battle for a state championship, and the pride our organization felt when doing small upgrades to our rink like a new sound system or updated doors, locker rooms, or rubber flooring that are safe for skate blades.

One aspect of youth hockey that most non-hockey individuals are unaware of is that Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) requires that hockey players must skate at a designated rink. This is to ensure that ice rinks have anchor customers to support operations to keep the rinks functioning. Families cannot pick a rink of their choice. If this resolution does not pass, what will happen to the hundreds of skaters that call Hartmeyer home?

With the many strings attached to how these arenas are operated and who they must serve, we believe that any private investors would be scared away from purchasing the ice rinks should this resolution fail. Thus a failed resolution likely means that these facilities cease to operate. Make no mistake about it, there are no replacement options for these programs. (youth and adult hockey, learn to skate, figure skating, sled skating, etc.) There is no capacity within surrounding rinks to absorb these programs.

We urge you to vote in favor of this resolution and consider the many visitors these facilities welcome to our lovely city each weekend during the winter. These folks shop at our local businesses, purchase gas from our gas stations, stay at our hotels, and eat at our restaurants.

Thank you for your time,
Amie and Matt Martin

From: [Crystal Martzall](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Resolution 86169 Support
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:18:29 PM

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Dear Madison Alders:

I am writing in support of the Madison Ice Arena Resolution. My six year old son started skating at Hartmeyer when he was 4 years old. He was able to participate in the Learn to Skate program that allowed kids an affordable way to learn how to safely skate. I wish there was more promotion of this program to allow more families to participate.

He fell in love with ice skating and started playing ice hockey through the Patriots last year. Hockey is providing not just an activity to stay physically active, but an opportunity to learn about being a team player, being a friend, and being part of a community.

At a time when climate change is making it more difficult to determine if our lakes will freeze for winter, we need to invest in activities for our children that are not dependent on environmental conditions.

I urge you to continue this investment into our community and our children so our kids can continue playing hockey and future generations can learn too. The building needs significant improvements before it's too late and more costly.

Thank you,
Crystal

Crystal Martzall
1422 E Dayton Street #20
Madison, WI 53703

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Caroline McKibben](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:11 AM

You don't often get email from carolinefostermckibben@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14. It is so important it is to have resources like Hartmeyer for kids on the north side.

Sincerely,
Caroline and Sean McKibben

From: [M. Meloy](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:11 PM

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Dear Mayor and Alder persons,

My name is Mandy Meloy, and I live on the eastside of Madison, District 15. My Alder is Dina Nina Martinez-Rutherford. I am a voter and a mom of a current hockey player, Bantam (14U) Jon Meloy. I am also a northside educator, as I was a teacher librarian at Lindbergh from 2015 to 2021 and now I am a school nurse at LakeView and Henderson elementary.

I am honored to support the East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC) so Hartmeyer is set up to be successful long into the future. Hartmeyer is a northside staple and has the potential to be so much more to our community including a place that hosts regional and statewide tournaments and brings patronage and support to our local businesses and community. It is vital for the city to help fund Harymeyer.

Although I have a child who plays hockey at Hartmeyer, and have wonderful experiences there, it's particularly important to me as an educator. When I was a teacher and librarian at Lindbergh, we unfortunately often encountered kids coming from difficult family situations. One such boy, in spite of the troubles he had gotten into, was smart and energetic. He just needed a healthy way to get out his energy. Immediately I thought of Hartmeyer and I reached out to them asking about scholarship opportunities for this kid. They responded very quickly and offered him a scholarship to sign up for skating lessons. We worked really hard with his family to be able to get him to the rink to skate.

This is what Hartmeyer offers to the youth of the Madison East side -- it offers a positive outlet for kids who desperately need it. It is vital for our city to fund Hartmeyer as Hartmeyer is a community that offers skating opportunities for kids. Because of these skating opportunities, kids smile and build confidence as they step out on the ice and figure out how to move on skates on ice (which I might say is not natural). I saw this in pictures just last week as our 5th graders at Henderson took a field trip to another ice arena to learn how to skate. It was magic to see them skating, partnering with others to problem solve, and gaining the confidence to try again.

While some kids who play at Hartmeyer have the means to go to another rink to skate. I am here today speaking for those ***who don't have other options.*** By

supporting facilities like Hartmeyer, the city is providing equitable and valuable opportunities to the community. The City needs to support Hartmeyer; don't take this away from our kids.

Thank you,
Mandy Meloy
608 609 9685
804 Glenview Drive
Madison, WI 53716

From: [Jonathon Meloy](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Heartmeyer voting
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:19 PM

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Dear alder and Mayor persons,

I am Jonathan Meloy. I am a hockey player, a part of the Patriots. And here is my opinion of The voting. Hockey is an incredible sport to play because It offers its highs and lows. However, it's impact goes way past just the player It affects the whole communities of heartmeyer. If funding is not possible then hartmeyer May no longer be available for the kids to come to heartmeyer. One of the highs of my team was when we won The State tournament. It was in a great experience for me and my team and I think other Patriot teams should deserve that too, but there may no longer be Patriot teams in the next few years. And finally if funding is not possible then our Patriot teams will not be able to achieve success and fun experiences for all of the kids that go to heartmeyer.

Sincerely,
Jon

From: [Ryan Minor](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please Support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:08 PM

You don't often get email from ryan.minor57@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of the Madison Common Council,

My name is Ryan Minor, and I'm reaching out as a lifelong skater, coach, and proud dad of two boys who love the ice. Hartmeyer Ice Arena has been an integral part of my life since I was a kid. I grew up skating there in the early 1990s as a Madison Patriot, and now, decades later, I have the incredible privilege of coaching my son's U6 team on the very same ice. My younger son is also getting his start at Hartmeyer in the Learn to Skate program. To say Hartmeyer is special to us would be an understatement—it feels like home.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the Tuesday, January 14th meeting to speak in person, as I will be at hockey practice with my son—at Hartmeyer, of course. While I would have loved the opportunity to share my thoughts directly, I hope this email conveys just how important this resolution is to my family and me.

Hartmeyer isn't just a building to us. It's where my kids are learning about teamwork, building confidence, and falling in love with a sport that has meant so much to me. It's where I've watched them light up after scoring a goal or mastering a new skill. It's where my wife and I have built lasting friendships with other families who share the same passion. And on Monday nights, it's where I lace up my skates for my hockey league—a chance to stay connected to the game and the rink that shaped me growing up.

But more than just our family's story, Hartmeyer is a cornerstone of the Madison community. It's a space that brings people together—from young kids trying skating for the first time to adults who find joy and camaraderie on the ice. The updates proposed by the East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC) are essential to preserving this rink so it can continue to create these experiences for future generations.

The thought of Hartmeyer closing its doors is heartbreaking. I urge you to vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and help secure its future for families like mine and the countless others who depend on it. Thank you for taking the time to hear our stories and for the work you do to shape Madison's future. Your decision means everything to us.

Sincerely,
Ryan Minor
304 Melissa Lane
Cottage Grove
Ryan.minor57@gmail.com

From: [Annie Minor](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please Support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:02 PM

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Dear Members of the Madison Common Council,

My name is Annie Minor, and I'm writing to you as a mom of two young boys who absolutely love skating. Our family's connection to Hartmeyer Ice Arena runs deep. My older son is in his second year as a U6 skater with the Madison Patriots, while my younger son is just starting out in the Learn to Skate program. My husband is both a U6 coach and a former Madison Patriot, having skated at Hartmeyer in the early 1990s. Even now, he laces up his skates every Monday night for a hockey league at Hartmeyer—a special tradition that keeps him connected to the rink and the community that feels like home.

Hartmeyer is more than an ice rink to us. It's where my boys are learning to be part of a team, discovering the joy of skating, and creating memories that will stay with them forever. For my husband, it's a place that shaped his childhood and continues to bring him joy as an adult. And for me, it's where I've watched our family grow closer, cheering from the stands and meeting other families who share our love for this sport and this community.

The updates proposed by the East Madison Ice Collective (EMIC) aren't just about improving a facility—they're about preserving a space that holds so much meaning for so many of us. Hartmeyer has brought people together for generations, and it's heartbreaking to think that it might not be here for my kids—or their kids—without this resolution.

For us, Hartmeyer represents:

- **A place of growth and joy.** My older son is thriving as a skater and as a young teammate. Watching him develop confidence and make friends on the ice has been so rewarding.
- **A connection to tradition.** Seeing my husband pass down his love of hockey to our boys at the very rink he grew up skating in is something I'll always treasure.
- **A second home.** Whether it's games, practices, or my husband's Monday night league, Hartmeyer has become a space where we feel rooted, connected, and supported.

Passing the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) isn't just about funding a building—it's about supporting the families, kids, and lifelong connections that make Madison such a special place to live. I'm asking you to vote in favor of this resolution and help ensure that Hartmeyer remains a vibrant part of our community for many years to come.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and all that you do for Madison. It means so much to families like mine.

Sincerely,
Annie Minor
304 Melissa Lane

Cottage Grove

bailey.annie4@gmail.com

From: [Abbie Norderhaug](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please support Madison's Ice rinks
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:35:07 PM

You don't often get email from abbie.norderhaug@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I'm writing to ask for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West).

For 74 years, these rinks have been pillars of our community, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. They host several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

For our family, the rinks have been essential to my child's mental health, giving her confidence and the knowledge that she is strong and can do anything she sets her mind to. The ice rinks are important to our family and allowing our child to thrive.

Abbie Norderhaug
4821 Marathon Dr.

From: [Normington, Terri N.](#)
To: [All Alders; Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resol #86169
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:36:25 PM

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Good Afternoon – I am reaching out today to show my support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169. My family and I live in Deerfield, WI and we drive 16miles one way 5-7 nights a week so that our son and our daughter can play hockey for Madison Patriots. Hartmeyer has become our home away from home. Our son started skating at the age of 3 and our daughter at the age of 4. We have made countless friendships and a second family through hockey all thanks to our home rink, Hartmeyer. Thank you for your support for Madison Ice Arenas Resol 86169

Terri Normington

Sales Support Manager
TruStage Executive Benefit Solutions

CA Insurance License #0H51232

Off 608.665.8785 | terri.normington@trustage.com

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From: [Jena Oliphant](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 9:03:47 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jena.oliphant@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support Hartmeyer and local ice arenas that have been a huge part of my family's life for the past 9 years since my two boys, now 14 & 16 tried hockey for the first time at Hartmeyer.

Thank you.

Jena Oliphant

From: [Kristin Olson](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 4:53:07 PM

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This email is to urge you to keep Hartmeyer Ice Arena open. The Patriots Hockey Organization is home to hundreds of youth hockey players, and also home for the Monona Grove hockey team. We had two boys play for the Patriots and it is a very important part of the community.

If hartmeyer must be sold and shut down, please consider delaying until a new facility can be arranged.

Thank you,

Luke Olson

From: [David Paepke](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arena
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:30 PM

You don't often get email from dpaepke@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Just a note to inform you of my opposition to the 7 acre land giveaway to the prospective operators of the Hartmeyer and Forward Dr. ice arenas. To my knowledge there has been no notice to the public concerning the value of these 2 properties.

From: [Kristie Palovcsik](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 12:50:49 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kristielavs@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear distinguished Common Council members and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing in regards to the upcoming Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) under consideration. I am certain you have all of the expertise needed, so I want this letter to connect you to the incredible personal experience that the Hartmeyer Ice Arena has provided to me and my family.

I have 2 wonderful children that have both benefited from the wonderful services, location, and volunteers at Hartmeyer. My daughter began Learn to Skate lessons at just 6 years old. She took figure skating lessons for many years and now can enjoy recreational skating anywhere she goes thanks to the welcoming spirit of those that run that program.

In addition to my daughter, my 12 year old son also enjoyed all of the early introductions to skating and hockey that Hartmeyer has offered, and has continued to become a dedicated hockey player on many Patriots teams.

This past year, we experienced the unimaginable when my childrens' father passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 46 years old. When we had to go through the painful experience of saying goodbye, the first people to reach out and come give us much needed hugs were our beloved Hartmeyer/Patriots families, coaches and teammates. They rallied together to support and uplift us during our darkest days. Within a week of this tragic event, the only thing my son felt up to doing was getting back on the ice. Hartmeyer will continue to be a place where he can feel the comfort of his coaches and teammates, the familiarity of the space where his dad cheered him on week after week, and the energy of a sport and environment he loves.

I urge you to support this Resolution. It isn't simply a rink, it is home for so many families. To lose Hartmeyer would sever the fabric of our collective community. I am certain my children would not be thriving as much as they are after this past year without Hartmeyer.

Thank you for reviewing my letter and supporting this vital community rink.

Kristie Palovcsik
608-345-4462

From: [Bethany Parker](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:22 AM

[You don't often get email from ban0706@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14. We believe this is important for the Northside community and all of the families and businesses who reside there. And for the families outside of the neighborhood who utilize the space.

Sincerely,
Bethany and Dave Parker
Mara (4) and Anderson (3) - Snowplow

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elizabeth Payne](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:07 PM

You don't often get email from epayne4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Mayor Rhodes-Conway and City Alders,

I understand you have received many emails regarding Hartmeyer Ice Arena and the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution, but I wanted to reach out with one more. My name is Elizabeth Payne and I was born and raised on the Northside of Madison, along with many generations before me. Roth St is named after my family on my mother's side.

I am reaching out in support of the Resolution. While I understand the resolution bears a financial weight that needs to be carefully discussed and budgeted for, I think what's most important to consider and share, is that this resolution has a huge effect on children in the greater Madison area.

I have two children, 17 and 8 years old, who have both grown up with a love for playing hockey, like many of their friends. We spend about 15-20 hours a week at Hartmeyer between the two for games and practices, and my eldest also works as a hockey referee at both Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arena. My husband and eldest run the Level 1 – Learn To Play program for 4-6 year olds (with volunteers from the Monona Grove boys hockey team - giving back to their community and sport) and I sit on the board for both the Patriots Youth Hockey Association and the Monona Grove Hockey Club.

I am writing to share with you the immense value that youth hockey can bring to children today, both on and off the ice. In a world where children are increasingly spending more time in front of screens, youth sports like hockey provide an unparalleled opportunity for personal growth, physical development, and social interaction.

Not only does youth hockey promote physical fitness in ways few other activities can. The sport demands strength, endurance, and agility, which helps children improve their cardiovascular health, build muscle, and develop coordination. In a time when childhood obesity is a growing concern, hockey offers a fun and dynamic way for kids to stay active while learning valuable skills that can benefit them throughout their lives.

The benefits of hockey extend far beyond physical fitness. The sport teaches important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience. On the ice, players must learn to communicate effectively with their teammates, strategize together, and support one another in pursuit of a common goal. These experiences help children develop the ability to work well in group settings, which is essential in both academic and professional environments later in life.

Hockey also instills a sense of discipline and commitment. The practice and dedication required to improve in the sport teach children the importance of hard work, perseverance, and time management. They learn that success does not come easily, but through continuous effort and determination—lessons that will serve them well in any future endeavor.

Moreover, youth hockey provides a valuable social experience. It fosters a sense of community, as children from various backgrounds come together to pursue a shared passion. The friendships forged on the ice often extend off the ice, creating lasting bonds and a strong sense of camaraderie. These social connections help build emotional intelligence, empathy, and a sense of belonging—qualities that are crucial for developing well-rounded individuals.

Lastly, hockey gives kids the opportunity to develop resilience and cope with setbacks.

Whether it's losing a game, facing a tough opponent, or dealing with personal challenges, hockey teaches kids how to bounce back from adversity with a positive attitude and the motivation to improve.

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, it is more important than ever for children to engage in activities that foster physical, emotional, and social growth. Youth hockey provides an ideal outlet for all of these developmental needs. It equips kids with skills and experiences that will not only help them become better athletes but also better people.

Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arena provide a space for not only two youth hockey teams for skaters age 3-14, but also houses teams for 5 high schools in the greater Madison area, adult hockey leagues, figure skating, and adaptive hockey. The two ice arenas are also pivotal in the growth of all-girls hockey in the state of Wisconsin. They serve as hubs for local sports enthusiasts, families, and fans, and contribute to the vibrancy and inclusiveness of our city. The arenas allow children from diverse backgrounds to come together, build friendships, and experience the thrill of being part of a team. They foster a sense of belonging, where families can bond over the shared love of the sport, and where our youth can take pride in their accomplishments both on and off the ice.

To lose these rinks would be a tragedy for the City of Madison, the greater Madison area and it's community members.

It feels as if the opposition to the resolution don't fully understand the details of the plan for the rinks moving forward. While this is a large dollar amount of forgiveness, there is a plan to move forward to improve the rinks and use them for many years to come. Building new rinks would take not only land to do so, but at minimum \$8-\$10 million each. The passion and commitment that East Madison Ice Collective has already shown to make this happen, should prove just how important this decision is for the community.

Moreover, supporting this resolution aligns with our city's commitment to providing high-quality recreational facilities that encourage active lifestyles. Investing in these facilities ensures that Madison continues to be a place where young people can pursue their passions, stay healthy, and engage in positive, constructive activities. It also strengthens our city's reputation as a community that values and supports the development of its youth.

I ask that you consider the long-term benefits of supporting the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution, not only for the children who will directly benefit from it but also for the entire Madison community. Investing in our young people today will pay dividends in the form of a stronger, healthier, and more connected city tomorrow.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I am confident that your leadership in supporting this resolution will make a significant difference in the lives of many young athletes in Madison. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Elizabeth Payne

608-217-1762

From: [Leesa Pennell](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution on 1/14/25
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:11 PM

You don't often get email from leesa.pennell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

I am writing to ask for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West).

During tonight's session, the common council will consider the Ice Arena Resolution, which would provide critical funding for much-needed infrastructure updates for both of Madison's community ice rinks.

These rinks have been part of the community for 74 years, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. Several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

Here's why this resolution is crucial:

- Operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks operational.
- Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability.
- With proper investment and support, these facilities can continue to thrive for years to come.

On a more personal level, while I have not been a resident of Madison my whole life, all of my children have and they have all started skating at a young age at Madison Ice Arena. When my youngest was 1.5 years old, I too joined this community and began skating as an adult figure skater. Programming at these rinks is inclusive, and it never feels like it is too late to begin learning how to skate or to feel a part of the communities there. Since we began taking skating lessons and becoming involved in hockey at these rinks, our family has found friendship and camaraderie which is invaluable to us, given our family all lives out of state. Losing these rinks would have a huge impact on our family and friends, something we are so worried might happen without support of this resolution.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Your support can make a lasting impact on our community and help preserve these ice rinks as a vital community asset for many years to come!

Sincerely,
Leesa Pennell
10 Canvasback Circle - Sauk Creek Neighborhood

--

Leesa Pennell
leesa.pennell@gmail.com
(m) 608-421-4325

From: [Kyle Probst](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 5:44:15 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kprobst1001@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Members of the Madison Common Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and to urge you to approve this critical measure to preserve and improve the Hartmeyer Ice Arena and other Madison ice facilities.

As outdoor winter activities decline due to the increasing impacts of climate change, indoor recreation spaces like ice rinks are more vital than ever. These facilities provide a safe, inclusive, and accessible environment for our community to enjoy winter sports, stay active, and build connections year-round. Hartmeyer Ice Arena has been an essential resource for skaters of all ages and skill levels, from beginners learning to skate to competitive athletes training for the future.

Beyond recreation, these rinks foster community by hosting events, promoting youth development, and offering opportunities for families to come together. Losing Hartmeyer would not only deprive Madison of a beloved space but also disrupt the programs and memories tied to it.

Approving the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution will ensure that Hartmeyer receives the infrastructure updates it urgently needs, securing its role in the community for generations to come. This investment will safeguard critical programming and ensure that Madison remains a leader in promoting healthy, sustainable recreation for all.

I encourage you to support this resolution and recognize the irreplaceable value of Madison's ice arenas. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to preserving these important community assets.

Sincerely,

Kyle Probst

From: [Mary Pustejovsky](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: support the ice arena resolution
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 9:14:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from darktownstrutter@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello

I am writing to voice my support for the ice arena resolution. The ice arena is a key part of the social infrastructure of our city. I recently read an article in The Atlantic talking about how Americans no longer socialize--they are getting takeout more often, not going to churches or joining sports leagues, etc. Their pursuits are solitary (watching TV, playing video games). We need places like Madison Ice Arena where people can have fun with other people. As a parent of 3 children, all of my children have enjoyed lessons at Madison Ice Arena. As an adult, I took lessons and joined a synchronized skating team. It has brought me immense joy to be part of a group of adults working on skills together. We range in age from 25 to 60+. There are few places where you find opportunities for socializing with adults of such different ages and walks of life.

Two years ago, I visited Ann Arbor Michigan. It has less than half the population of Madison (115K) and yet maintains two public ice rinks for all residents to use. I realize that ice rinks are expensive to build and maintain, and I understand why the city no longer wants to own the maintenance obligations for the ice rink. Therefore, the least that you can do is remove the debt obligation to allow Madison Ice to continue to serve the city. Just like the funds Madison has dedicated to the Madison Public Market, or the grocery store on Park Street, these are critical needs to ensure that we have a thriving city with a high quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service to the city.

Mary Pustejovsky
Midvale Heights

From: [Jennifer Reich](#)
To: [All Alders](#); mayor@cityofmadison.com
Subject: Madison Ice and Hartmeyer Ice Arenas
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 8:28:14 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jennreich1@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alders and our Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

As a resident and personal user of both Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena, I'm writing to you to let you know how important those public spaces are to the community.

They are heavily used and heavily loved by children and adults alike. We have kid & adult hockey teams, hockey teams for disabled adults and children, and adaptive skating programs for children with disabilities. We have various figure skating teams, and clubs that use it too. We have members of the community using those spaces for public skating at low cost. We have classes for learn to skate and programs to help kids who cannot afford it, get sponsored.

I have been using the arenas for 12 years and have even taught skating to kids with and without disabilities. I know the joy the arenas bring and the need they fill for providing strongly competed for ice times. They are a fundamental part of many children's extra-curricular lives, and contribute immensely to their well being.

I realize the complex nature of saving these spaces and hereby ask you to support keeping them, and providing city support for them. Outdoor hockey and skating will disappear and these wonderful programs in the rinks greatly benefit the community.

Thank you!!!

Jennifer Reich

33 Scranton Ct Madison



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [jillrinzel](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) support
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 5:58:24 PM

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Dear Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

My husband and I have grown up in and around Madison and now live in Cottage Grove. Our kids began lessons and hockey when they were four years old and continue to play with the Patriots and Dragons now. Hartmeyer has provided a safe place for them to grow and develop many skills and friendships.

As much as we live our time at Hartmeyer, Madison's Ice Rinks urgently need infrastructure updates to remain operational. These updates will preserve the rinks for the next generation of skaters and maintain critical community programming. Please support the Ice Arenas Resolution to help secure funding for these necessary improvements.

Sincerely,
Jill Rinzel

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

From: [Raymond Robey](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Users' Fee
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:32:42 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ray.robey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I agree with the key points of this article: <https://www.77squaremiles.com/post/why-aren-t-ice-arena-users-paying-their-fair-share?cid=f1924ca4-c7ed-4daf-91dc-61e255c0a44e>

It's becoming standard practice for city government to resort to "my way or catastrophe" arguments.

Could someone please explain why this proposed solution would not work?

Thank you,
Ray Robey

From: [Kristy Roherty](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer ice arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:49:58 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from krroherty@madison.k12.wi.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

This email is to urge you to do what you can to keep the doors open at Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Hockey has been a savior for my family. My son started playing last year and it has provided family bonding, new friendships and many lessons about teamwork/social and emotional skills for my 10 year old. Sports are more than winning/losing. Sports teach our youth life lessons that lead to kind, hardworking humans. Sports are physically, socially and emotionally healthy for many reasons. We as a society need to focus on all of these and sports is a great way to achieve this overall health.

Thank you for your time,
Kristy Roherty

From: [Glori Sabin](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Fiasco - Reference Legistar ID No. 86169 \$1.6 Million Debt Forgiveness & \$1 Land Deals
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:04:51 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kdietzman@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear Alders,

I initially sent this message last night to our Alder Derek Field, but upon further consideration, it belongs repeating and I should have sent this to all of you.

Upon reading Alex Saloutos message yesterday about the subject details, it's imperative that I voice my opinion. Alex is absolutely right and furthermore lists sound solutions. We as your constituents, also demand that this resolution be deferred UNTIL ALL questions have been answered and alternatives explored. Common sense must prevail.

The council should absolutely not rush this decision but MUST DEFER the resolution to fully consider alternative solutions that prioritize equity, fiscal responsibility and transparency. This Mayor's actions are reprehensible and shady at best!

This bailout MUST BE HALTED until all of the honest facts can be investigated and rightly disclosed.

Alders, you have the responsibility to be a part of the solution or continue to be part of the problem if you go along with this dishonesty! We are counting on all of the Alders to stand up for truth and transparency. This is your job! Thank you.

Regards,

Glori Sabin
10 Jubilee Cir
Madison Wi 53718-3119
Email: kdietzman@sbcglobal.net

From: asaloutos@tds.net
To: [Mikolajewski, Matthew](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Dan O'Connell](#); [Dan OConnell](#); [conti thomas](#); [Knepp, Eric](#); [Davis, Norman](#); [Schmiedicke, David](#)
Subject: Proposal to forgive Madison Ice, Inc.'s \$1.6 million debt, and authorize the sale of Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena for \$1 each, Legistar ID no. 86169.
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 4:28:13 PM
Attachments: [241118 BLOGPOST ICEARENAS QUESTIONS V2.pdf](#)

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Hi, Matt!

Thank you for all of your hard work on this project. I hope the attached questions, along with their answers, can contribute to a more thoughtful and informed discussion by the Council regarding this resolution. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'AS' or a stylized 'A'.

Alex Saloutos
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Cell: (608) 345-9009
Email: asaloutos@tds.net

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: January 10, 2025

To: Matthew Mikolajewski

PC: All alders, Eric Knepp, Norman Davis, David Schmiedicke, Dan O'Connell, Tom Conti

From: Alex Saloutos

Re: **Proposal to forgive Madison Ice, Inc.'s \$1.6 million debt, and authorize the sale of Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena for \$1 each, Legistar ID no. [86169](#).**

First, I want to thank you for the considerable time and effort you've devoted to negotiating and preparing this proposal. I recognize that bringing together multiple parties to create a workable plan is no small feat, and your dedication to addressing the challenges surrounding the ice arenas is evident. Your work plays a critical role in helping the Common Council and the public evaluate this important resolution.

This resolution raises significant questions about fiscal responsibility, equity, and the long-term public interest. To ensure that the Council and the community have all the information needed to make the most informed decision possible about a complicated issue, I've compiled a list of questions that address areas where additional clarity is needed. These questions aim to facilitate transparency and help ensure that all potential consequences—both intended and unintended—are carefully considered.

If you have any questions or need further clarification about the questions I've provided, please don't hesitate to contact me on my cell at (608) 345-9009 or via email at asaloutos@tds.net. I'd like to do whatever I can to support you in this process. Additionally, I'd greatly appreciate your efforts to address these questions by January 14, as this will aid in fostering a transparent and informed discussion by the common council that evening.

Thank you again for your hard work on this important matter. I look forward to seeing a thoughtful discussion of this issue at the next council meeting.

Compliance With Madison's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative

This section examines how the proposal mitigates institutional bias and advances racial equity for Madison's residents. It appears that over 90% of users are white, most of whom are affluent and live outside the city, with no indication it serves Black or Latino communities.

1. What are the age, race, and household income of participants in each programs?¹ Please provide supporting documentation.
2. What percentage of participants meet the state's definition of economically disadvantaged?²

¹ Insert data on disparities in household incomes for youth in Madison compared to participants in hockey and other ice sports.

² Insert data in large percentage of users who don't live in Madison. DPI's definition of economically disadvantaged and data on percentage of students in Madison that are economically disadvantaged.

3. What percentage of participants in programs offered at the arenas live in Madison?³ Please provide records to verify this information.
4. If a significant percent of participants don't live in Madison, what has the city done to pursue regional solutions to the issues this resolution addresses?⁴
5. Has the resolution been evaluated through an equity lens and does the resolution align with the Madison's Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative?⁵ If so, please explain.
6. Has a Racial Equity Analysis⁶ been conducted for this resolution? If so, please provide a copy.
7. What are the total annual costs to participate in each program, and how do they compare to other youth sports?⁷
8. What financial assistance programs exist for each program, and what are their eligibility criteria?
9. How many participants in each program who live in Madison currently receive financial assistance, and how is this tracked?⁸
10. How many participants in each program rely on mass transit to access the arenas?⁹
11. What are the public access hours for the arenas, and how many total hours weekly are they open to the general public?

Means Testing and Financial Assistance

This section addresses the capacity of Madison Ice, Inc. to pay off the land contracts, and the need for financial assistance. There appears to be little to no evidence that a meaningful and thorough process was undertaken to evaluate Madison Ice, Inc.'s capacity to repay the land contracts or to assess the need and justification for this financial assistance.

12. What efforts has Madison Ice, Inc. made to secure alternative funding (e.g., loans, grants, fundraising) before seeking city assistance?
13. Does the city have a means-testing policy? If so, please provide a copy.

³ Available data indicates that 75% of the board members of Madison Ice, Inc. and East Madison Ice Collective, as well as the capital campaign donors, do not reside in the City of Madison, which raises important questions about whether City of Madison taxpayers are effectively subsidizing recreational opportunities for residents of other communities.

⁴ City policy is to "Pursue regional solutions to regional issues." City of Madison. *Comprehensive Plan*, Effective Government, Strategy 1: "Pursue regional solutions to regional issues." Accessed January 7, 2025. [file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Part%203%20Web%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Part%203%20Web%20(1).pdf).

⁵ The mission of the City of Madison Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative (RESJI) is to "establish racial equity and social justice as core principles in all decisions, policies and functions of the City of Madison." City of Madison. *Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative*: "Establish racial equity and social justice as core principles in all decisions, policies, and functions of the City of Madison." Accessed January 7, 2025. https://www.cityofmadison.com/civil-rights/documents/RESJI_briefing_book.pdf.

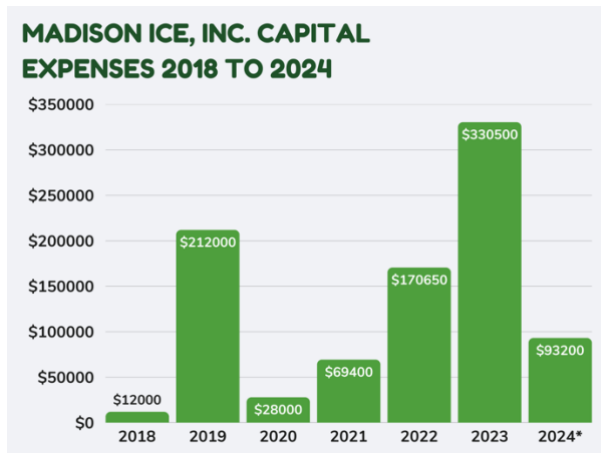
⁶ The Racial Equity Analysis Tool is to be used "as early as possible in the development of City policies, plans, programs and budgets." City of Madison, *Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative RESJ Tool: Comprehensive Version*: [file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/OMB-2021-0005-0499_attachment_8%20\(3\).pdf](file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/OMB-2021-0005-0499_attachment_8%20(3).pdf).

⁷ Data and citations on costs to participate in hockey.

⁸ Data and citations on disparity between number of students in Madison Public Schools that qualify for financial assistance versus household incomes of participants in youth ice sports. Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Report on Madison.

⁹ Data on transportation being a barrier to participation in youth sports

14. How does the city reconcile Madison Ice, Inc.'s COVID-19 hardship claims with the significant surpluses on their federal tax returns during that time? ^{10,11}



15. What criteria, data, and records were analyzed to evaluate Madison Ice, Inc.'s inability to pay the land contracts, and what were the documented findings?
16. What is Madison Ice, Inc.'s current liquidity ratio?¹²
17. Has Madison Ice, Inc. provided financial statements (income, balance sheet, cash flow)? Please specify years, if they were audited, and the receipt dates?¹³
18. Has Madison Ice, Inc. submitted federal tax returns? Please specify years and receipt dates¹⁴
19. What additional documents has the city reviewed to evaluate Madison Ice, Inc.'s capacity to make payments?
20. Will Madison Ice, Inc.'s financial records and the city's analysis be made publicly available? If not, please explain.

Compliance With City Policy

This section addresses compliance of the resolution with city policies. There is credible evidence—or a lack thereof—that the current proposal aligns with several important and relevant city policies.

21. Does the resolution align with the city's Vision, Mission, and Values?¹⁵ If so, Please explain.

¹⁰ From 2018 to 2024, Madison Ice, Inc. invested \$915,750 in capital improvements and repairs to the arenas. Madison Ice, Inc website: <https://www.miiboardofdirectors.org/>.

¹¹ From 2018 to 2024, Madison Ice, Inc.'s federal tax returns indicate consistent surpluses in six of the last seven years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, contradicting their claims of financial hardship. Over this period, the total surplus amounts to \$956,898. In 2024, expenses were adjusted to reflect \$216,958 in capital expenses depreciated over seven years, per GAAP and IRS regulations. This adjustment reduces annual expenses by \$185,964, resulting in a \$142,220 surplus instead of the reported \$43,744 loss. Madison Ice, Inc. federal tax returns: <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/200831947>.

¹² Liquidity ratio is a financial metric used to measure an organization's ability to meet its short-term obligations using its current assets.

¹³ There is no material evidence that the city received any financial statements from Madison Ice, Inc.

¹⁴ There is no material evidence that the city received any of Madison Ice, Inc.'s federal tax returns. Only the first page of Madison Ice Inc.'s federal tax return for the year ended April 30, 2024 was provided to alders.

¹⁵ City of Madison website, mission, vision, and values: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/vision-awards>.

22. Does the resolution align with the following plans:
 - a. Comprehensive Plan¹⁶
 - b. Emerson East–Eken Park–Yahara Neighborhood Plan¹⁷
 - c. 2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan¹⁸
 - d. Oscar Meyer Special Area Plan¹⁹
 - e. Economic Development Plan²⁰ and
 - f. Land Banking Fund Policy?²¹

Please explain.

23. Will a staff report objectively analyze this proposal, alternatives, and alignment with the city's policies and plans? If not, please explain.

Precedent and Unintended Consequences

This section addresses the broader implications of the resolution and the unintended consequences it could create.

24. What precedent does the city set by failing to take action to collect this debt, such as utilizing the purchasers' \$120,000 in letters of credit, appointing a receiver, or reclaiming title to the properties
25. Have other borrowers defaulted on city loans? If so who, what actions did the city take to collect the debts, and what were the results?
26. Will forgiving this debt impact the city's ability to collect loans from others? If not, please explain.
27. What precedent does this resolution set for organizations seeking city financial aid, given the lack of due diligence, transparency and accountability?
28. What precedent would be set by forgiving this debt?

¹⁶ City relevant sections. City of Madison, *Comprehensive Plan*:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/comprehensive-plan/3894/>.

¹⁷ City relevant sections. City of Madison, *Emerson East–Eken Park–Yahara Neighborhood Plan*:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/eeepynp2016.pdf>.

¹⁸ City relevant sections. City of Madison, *2018-2023 Park and Open Space Plan*:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/documents/projects/2018-2023%20POSP.pdf>.

¹⁹ City of Madison, *Oscar Meyer Special Area Plan*:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/planning/documents/OscarMayerSpecialAreaPlan.pdf>.

²⁰ City of Madison, *Economic Development Plan, Connect Madison*:

https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/documents/Connect%20Madison%2012_19_16.pdf.

²¹ The Land Banking Fund Policy states, "City staff shall consider the impact of any form of property transfer (acquisition or disposition) on short and long-term neighborhood and community development plans and vice versa." City of Madison, *Land Banking Fund Policy*.

https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/documents/City%20of%20Madison%20Land%20Banking%20Fund%20Policy_Amended%203_5_24.pdf.

Transparency and Accountability

This section addresses important information the public and council is entitled to and should have, and seeks to clarify information that the city or Madison Ice, Inc. has provided that appears to be false or misleading.

29. What is the outstanding accrued interest on the land contracts, excluding principal?
30. What is the total outstanding debt, including principal and accrued interest?
31. How much interest will accrue on the Land Contracts until loan forgiveness in 18 years?
32. Why were terms from the unsigned Third Amendment to the Land Contract referenced as though they are in effect in the staff presentations at the neighborhood meeting, economic development committee, and finance committee?²²
33. What is the market value of the properties based on current use and highest and best use?
34. What steps has the city taken to recover this debt?
35. Does the city send regular statements to Madison Ice, Inc.? If so, when was the last statement sent?
36. Has the city delivered written default notices to Madison Ice, Inc.? If so, when?
37. Did Madison Ice, Inc. deliver the \$60,000 Letters of Credit for each arena due January 1, 2023?²³ If so, when?
38. If the Letters of Credit were not delivered, did the city deliver default notices? If so, when?
39. Do the land contracts allow the city to appoint a receiver due to Madison Ice, Inc.'s 2021 default?
40. Why did the mayor allow Madison Ice, Inc. to operate after default, instead of appointing a receiver to protect city interests?²⁴
41. What steps did the mayor take to evaluate appointing a receiver during the default? What were they and what were the results?
42. How was East Madison Ice Collective selected as the preferred entity to take over Hartmeyer Ice Arena, and were other potential operators or solutions considered?

²² The City Clerk states the Third Amendment was not signed by the parties. However, the staff presentation to the neighborhood meeting on December 12, 2024, the Economic Development Commission on December 18, 2024, and the Finance Committee on January 6, 2024, states, "City restructured debt in 2021, requiring \$0 of payments in 2021 due to the Pandemic." And, "2021 payment plan was to have principal and interest payments of about \$120,000/year from 2022 until January 2028, when a final \$1,031,418 balloon payment is due." Since the parties never signed the Third Amendment, these terms do not apply, and presenting them in this manner is false and misleading.

²³ The Land Contracts states, "At the beginning of Year 6, as stated on Exhibit A (January 31, 2023), Purchaser shall provide the Vendor [City of Madison] with a letter of credit, in a form acceptable to the Vendor, in the amount of \$60,000 (the 'Letter of Credit'). The Letter of Credit shall be used to cure a default arising under Section 1.b, above, but without modifying or limiting the provisions therein."

²⁴ Per the terms of the Land Contracts, the city has the unilateral right to appoint a receiver if Madison Ice, Inc. defaults.

43. What is the value of the financial assistance the city provided to the Urban League and Centro Hispano, and how was it used²⁵ Please include project addresses.
44. Is it accurate that the City sold the property at 2403 Cypress Way, totaling 1.172 acres, to Centro Hispano for \$1,380,000 in January 2023 for the construction of their new building?²⁶ If not, please explain.
45. Why was the Common Council and the public not informed of Madison Ice, Inc.'s default on the loan until recently?
46. Did the mayor or city staff issue any formal notices to Madison Ice, Inc. regarding their default? If so, when, and why was this not disclosed to the Council?
47. Why were the details of this proposal, including the negotiation process, kept from the public and the Common Council until the resolution was introduced?
48. What criteria were used to determine that this issue should be handled exclusively between the city staff, Madison Ice, Inc., and East Madison Ice Collective, without input from the council, city committees, and stakeholder engagement?

Operational and Financial Management by Madison Ice, Inc.

This section addresses Madison Ice, Inc.'s management of the arenas and what role they had in the problem. There is no apparent evidence that Madison Ice, Inc.'s management of the arenas was evaluated to determine their responsibility for the financial problems, or assess what operational improvements could be made to cure the default.

49. Has the city formally evaluated whether Madison Ice, Inc.'s management caused or contributed to the default? If so, provide the report.
50. Has an independent expert reviewed Madison Ice, Inc.'s operations to identify improvements? If so, provide the findings.
51. Does Madison Ice, Inc. and East Madison Ice Collective have a long-term capital expenditure plans for the arenas? If yes, provide a copies.
52. Does Madison Ice, Inc. maintain a reserve or sinking fund for capital expenditures? Does it align with a Replacement Reserves Table?
53. What alternative solutions were explored by Madison Ice, Inc. to cure the default?
54. Is there any legal reason preventing Madison Ice, Inc. from charging a user or facility fee per visit to repay the city's debt? If so, please explain?²⁷

²⁵ According to State of Wisconsin records, the City of Madison sold 2403 Cypress Way, which is 1.17 acres, to Centro Hispano in for ~\$1,177,182 an acre in January 2023.

²⁶ City of Madison Assessor website, Sale/Conveyance Details:

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/assessor/property/additionalpropertydata.cfm?ParcelN=070935203227&Type=S>.

²⁷ Madison Ice, Inc. reports there are 400,000 to 450,000 visits to the arenas each year. If each visitor was charged a fee of \$0.30 per visit it would generate \$120,000 to \$135,000 per year. The current annual payments for the Land Contracts is \$123,732.

55. Did a city representative ever served on Madison Ice, Inc.'s board as required?²⁸ If so, who and when?
56. Did Madison Ice, Inc. request a city board representative when none was appointed? Please explain.
57. How do utilization rates, fees, revenues, and expenses of Madison Ice and Hartmeyer compare to other Madison-area arenas?
58. What are the hourly ice time rates for each arena, categorized by season, time of day, and day of the week?
59. How many hours per week is each arena rented during peak and off-peak seasons, categorized by time of day?
60. Does Madison Ice, Inc.'s balance sheet include a reserve or sinking fund for capital expenditures?
61. Are Madison Ice, Inc.'s \$1.4 million operating costs for FYE April 30, 2024 inflated by capital expenditures?²⁹ Please explain why or why not.
62. Is Madison Ice, Inc.'s treatment of capital expenditures as operating expenses compliant with GAAP and IRS standards? Please explain why or why not.
63. Were nearby nonprofit-operated ice arenas reviewed as models for financial sustainability? If not, why?
64. Has a Property Condition Assessment (PCA)^{30,31} and Property Condition Report, which include an Immediate Repairs Table³² and a Replacement Reserves Table,³³ a Commercial Property Inspection,³⁴ or comparable report been completed for the arenas? If so, please provide copies.
65. How much annual revenue is lost due to the arenas' current condition?

²⁸ "Beginning on May 1, 2011, Purchaser [Madison Ice, Inc.] shall ensure that the City of Madison Parks Superintendent, or his or her designee, is made a member of the Board of Directors of Madison Ice, Inc., on or before May 1, 2011." Land Contract, Amendment, paragraph 2, April 8, 2011.

²⁹ An Excel spreadsheet provided by Madison Ice, Inc. to the City of Madison appears to show that Capital Improvements for the year ended April 30, 2024, were recorded as operating expenses rather than being depreciated over time, inflating operating costs and violating GAAP and IRS regulations.

³⁰ PCAs help lenders or buyers understand how the condition of the building and site improvements will impact the asset's financial performance. ASTM International, ASTM E2018-15, Standard Guide for Property Condition Assessments: Baseline Property Condition Process: <https://www.astm.org/e2018-15.html>.

³¹ National Engineering & Environmental Due Diligence Association, Property Condition Assessment (PCA) User Guide: https://www.partneresi.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/needda_property_condition_assessment_user_guide_needda_logo_24.pdf.

³² An Immediate Repairs Table identifies short-term capital needs (recommended within the next 90 days), deferred maintenance and all failing or damaged building systems and life safety issues, as well as opinions of probable costs to correct the items identified. It highlights items that require immediate action due to existing or potential unsafe conditions, building code or fire code violations, or conditions that if left uncorrected could result in critical failure or significant costs.

³³ The Replacement Reserves Table identifies long-term capital expenses that are typically based on the expected useful life of the building systems and components. Examples of replacement reserve items include pavement seal coating and striping, exterior painting, or HVAC system replacements. x

³⁴ Certified Commercial Property Inspectors Association, *International Standards of Practice for Inspecting Commercial Properties*: <https://ccpia.org/wp-content/uploads/ComSOP-2022.pdf>.

66. How much annual revenue is lost due to the arenas' lack of competitive amenities?
67. Are Madison Ice, Inc.'s capital expenditures depreciated in compliance with GAAP and IRS regulations?
68. Besides the financial statements and tax returns, what documentation confirms Madison Ice, Inc.'s compliance with GAAP and IRS regulations for capital expenditure depreciation?
69. How does the city address discrepancies in Madison Ice, Inc.'s reported capital expenses (\$3,577,049 on their federal tax returns, \$4,972,950 on their website, and \$7,500,000 in a Wisconsin State Journal article)?³⁵
70. Does Madison Ice, Inc. operate an annual giving program?
71. How does Madison Ice, Inc.'s annual giving program compare to similar programs at other Madison-area arenas?
72. What percentage of Madison Ice, Inc.'s revenue is generated from annual giving, and how does this compare to other local nonprofits who charge for their services?
73. How many multi-day tournaments at the arenas attract teams from outside Dane County, and how does this compare to other Madison-area arenas?
74. How many participants in multi-day tournaments are from outside Dane County, and what is the economic impact?
75. Has the city received strategic plans from Madison Ice, Inc. and East Madison Ice Collective? Are they publicly available?

East Madison Ice Collective's Management of Hartmeyer Ice Arena

This section addresses East Madison Ice Collective's (EMIC) management of Hartmeyer Ice Arena, the proposed \$3 million in capital expenses, their capacity to raise this amount, and the viability of their capital campaign. There is little to no evidence demonstrating that the \$3 million is an adequate or necessary amount for the required repairs. Moreover, there is no clear proof that EMIC has the capacity to successfully raise the \$3 million within the proposed timeline or to address the arenas' long-term capital needs, leaving significant questions about the sustainability and feasibility of this proposal.

76. How was the \$3 million estimate for Hartmeyer Ice Arena repairs calculated, and what specific documentation or assessments support this figure (e.g., Property Condition Assessments, or Commercial Property Inspection)?
77. If no formal assessment exists for the \$3 million estimate, how can the city ensure the figure accurately reflects the actual scope of repairs and avoids underfunding or unexpected costs?
78. Has a subject matter expert conducted a feasibility study for East Madison Ice Collective's capital campaign? If so, is a copy available?

³⁵ Wisconsin State Journal, *Madison backs plan to rescue Hartmeyer Ice Arena after business tanked by pandemic*, December 4, 2024: https://madison.com/news/local/government-politics/madison-hartmeyer-new-ownership/article_a6e75724-ac2b-11ef-b627-b7f183e88741.html.

79. Was the \$3 million goal based on the project budget or a professional feasibility study of fundraising capacity?
80. Has East Madison Ice Collective received Capital Fundraising Committee approval from the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce?
81. Has East Madison Ice Collective secured a leadership donation for its capital campaign? If yes, how much?
82. What percentage of East Madison Ice Collective board members have donated to the campaign, and what is the average donation?
83. What is the total amount of pledges and donations received by East Madison Ice Collective so far?

Current Resolution

This section addresses the pros and cons of the current resolution and the risks associated with it. There is evidence that the current resolution could be improved to better mitigate risks and protect the public interest.

84. Has the process to develop this resolution been transparent and accountable?³⁶ Please explain.
85. Were city residents engaged and provided meaningful opportunities for participation in the process to create this resolution? Please explain.
86. How does the city justify taxpayer support for Madison Ice, Inc., given their management of the arenas and the performance results for the last 20 years?
87. What processes and outreach did the city conduct to explore alternatives in lieu of subsidizing outdated arenas, especially given the cost of deferred maintenance, and the availability of newer, better-equipped facilities in surrounding areas?
88. What feedback was gathered from stakeholders about facility preferences and financially sustainable alternatives, and why wasn't it used to explore alternatives?
89. After \$3 million in repairs, will the 1960 and 1974-built arenas meet long-term skating needs despite lacking modern amenities offered by competitive arenas? What evidence supports this claim?
90. What financial analysis compares the costs of maintaining current arenas versus building new ones, considering sale of the current properties, use of park development and infrastructure fees, demand for each alternative, and the donor capacity for each capital campaign??

³⁶ City policy is to, "Ensure that the City of Madison government is transparent and accountable. Engage city residents by providing meaningful opportunities for participation in decisions that affect their neighborhoods and the city as a whole." And, "Provide a wide range of opportunities for involvement in planning and decision making, with targeted access and inclusion of underrepresented populations." City of Madison, *Comprehensive Plan - Appendices, Effective Government*. <https://plans.cityofmadison.com/comprehensive-plan-appendices>.

91. If Madison Ice, Inc.'s management of the arenas contributed in whole or in part to the default, what steps can the city take to ensure that their board has the necessary capacity and oversight to effectively manage the arenas moving forward?
92. Given Madison Ice, Inc.'s history of financial defaults, lack of professional property assessments or inspections, absence of established reserve funds, and apparent failure to follow GAAPs and IRS regulations, what justification exists for the city to continue its business relationship with them?
93. What happens to the accrued interest on the Land Contracts if only the principal (\$1,613,365) is forgiven?
94. What is the interest rate on the proposed new loans?
95. Do the new loan agreements include collateral? If not, why?
96. Has the city considered structuring the new loans as land contracts or mortgages to use real estate as collateral? If not, what alternatives ensure repayment?
97. Will the new loan agreements require personal guarantees from Madison Ice, Inc. and East Madison Ice Collective leadership, which is typical on other city loans?³⁷ If not, why?
98. Do the new loan agreements allow the city to appoint a receiver upon default? If not, why?
99. What safeguards in the new loan agreements ensure solvency and compliance by Madison Ice, Inc. and East Madison Ice Collective?
100. What recourse does the city have if Madison Ice, Inc. or East Madison Ice Collective default on new loans?
101. Has an Economic Feasibility Analysis evaluated viable, independent property uses, even though MGO 8.075 does not apply?
102. How do the performance standards in this agreement compare to the Overture Center agreements, particularly in accountability and outcomes?
103. Can the current land contracts be amended to make them forgivable and assign Hartmeyer's to East Madison Ice Collective?
104. Regarding the financial statements the EDC recommended collecting:
105. How is the requested financial information useful?
106. Who provides the financial statements, when will they be submitted, and who will access them?

³⁷ As noted by the National Credit Union Administration, "In small business, investor real estate, and privately held entity lending, it is standard practice for principals of a business entity to assume the majority of the risk by personally guaranteeing a loan. . . And, "Personal guarantees provide an additional form of credit enhancement for a commercial loan by solidifying a principal's long-term commitment to the success of the business operation." National Credit Union Administration. "Personal Guarantees." *NCUA Examiner's Guide*. Accessed January 7, 2025. <https://publishedguides.ncua.gov/examiner/content/examinersguide/loans/commercial%26mbl/PersonalGuarantees.htm>.

107. What timeframes do the financial statements cover?
108. Will the financial statements be audited and GAAP/IRS-compliant?
109. Given that it is standard policy for the Common Council to approve actual contract documents, should City Council approval depend on Common Council review of finalized agreements to address risks and gaps? If not, why?
110. Does this reserve fund in the resolution apply solely to unexpected expenses, or does it also include planned capital expenses?
111. If the reserve fund is for unexpected expenses, how will organizations address long-term capital needs, such as those in a Facility Assessment Report?
112. Should the resolution clarify differences between reserve funds for unexpected versus capital expenses to avoid ambiguity?
113. How will the city define and measure "reasonable efforts" and a "timely manner" for replenishing the reserve fund, so it is clear to all parties that the standards for replenishment are being met?
114. Would a permanent easement for year-round ice sports and recreation provide stronger protections than a deed restriction, especially after 30 years? If not, why?
115. Why did the city choose a deed restriction instead of a permanent easement to maintain sports and recreation use?
116. What proof of funds will be required to verify that \$3 million has been raised for the capital campaign?
117. Will pledges be acceptable as proof of funds? If so, how will multi-year gifts be accounted for?
118. Would a permanent easement primarily for year-round ice sports and related recreation provide stronger protections than a deed restriction? If not, why?
119. Are you aware that a deed restriction is typically less enforceable than a permanent easement, particularly after 30 years?"
120. Why doesn't the deed restriction specifically limit use to year-round indoor ice sports like hockey, figure skating, and curling?
121. Considering the magnitude of the city's financial assistance, why isn't a reversion clause included to return ownership of the properties to Madison for \$1 if the specified use ceases?
122. For the same reason, why isn't a reversion clause included to return ownership of the properties for to Madison for \$1 if Madison Ice, Inc. or East Madison Ice Collective decide to sell them?
123. For the same reason, wouldn't it be more appropriate to require the City to reclaim ownership of the properties if Madison Ice, Inc. or East Madison Ice Collective stop using them for sport and recreation? If not, please explain your answer.

Alternative Resolutions

This section explores solutions that ensure continuity of arena programs, better meet the long-term needs of skaters and the public, are financially sustainable, and reduce costs to taxpayers.

124. What is the intent of the Land Contract language requiring the city to assist Madison Ice, Inc. with facility expansion or relocation?³⁸
125. What facility features (size, number of sheets, locker rooms, parking, etc.) best meet long-term needs of skaters and the public interest? What evidence supports this?
126. What is the optimal location for ice arenas?³⁹
127. What are the estimated cost and timeline for a needs analysis comparing arena renovations to new arenas or multi-sport facilities?
128. Can Park Impact Fees fund the purchase of sites for new arenas?
129. How much funding is available through Park Impact Fees for acquiring sites for new ice arenas?
130. Can Park Infrastructure Impact Fees fund improvements at Madison Ice, Hartmeyer, or new ice arenas?
131. What Park Infrastructure Fees are currently available to fund improvements at Madison Ice Arena, Hartmeyer Ice Arena, or for new arenas or multi-sport complexes?
132. What state and federal grants can fund feasibility studies for ice arenas or multi-sport complexes, and their construction?

³⁸ The Land Contracts state, ““The Vendor [City of Madison] agrees to meet with the Purchaser [Madison Ice, Inc.] to discuss and assist with the planning and development for potential expansion and/or relocation of the Facilities within the City of Madison.”

³⁹ City policies state, “Madison will have efficient and reliable . . . facilities, and services that support all residents. Madison will collaborate with other governmental and non-governmental entities to improve efficiency and achieve shared goals. Locate community facilities to provide a high level of service to all neighborhoods.” City of Madison, *Comprehensive Plan, Effective Government*: [file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Part%203%20Web%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/alexsaloutos/Downloads/Comprehensive%20Plan%20Part%203%20Web%20(1).pdf).

From: [Rachel Sauer](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: Legistar file 86169
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:04:11 AM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison Alders,

I am writing as a parent of a skater with the Vel Phillips Memorial Hockey Team, whose team frequently uses the Madison Ice Arena located on Madison's southwest side. Prior to that my son was a skater with the West Madison Polar Caps and my daughter also took skating lessons at MIA and frequents public skate. I have also attended sled hockey games at MIA.

I am asking for your support of Legistar file #86169, which will be voted on by the Common Council on January 14, 2025. The debt forgiveness resolution is crucial for securing funding for much-needed infrastructure improvements at both Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

Madison Ice Arena has served as an important community hub for over 60 years, providing a space for thousands of children and families across Dane County. As a parent, I have seen firsthand how vital this facility is for young athletes, from ice skating programs to high school hockey teams, adaptive skating, and sled hockey for individuals with disabilities. The arena offers not only athletic opportunities but also fosters a strong sense of community.

However, our city's community rinks, including Madison Ice Arena, are in **desperate** need of infrastructure upgrades. Operating revenue alone cannot cover the capital improvements required to keep the rinks functional. While users have been working to fundraise for these repairs, debt forgiveness through Legistar #86169 are essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the rinks and their programs.

Please support Legistar file #86169 to help ensure that Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena remain viable community assets for years to come, benefiting the children, families, and athletes who rely on them. Your support is essential in preserving these vital resources.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important issue. I greatly appreciate your advocacy on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Rachel Sauer

926 Sauk Ridge Trail, Madison

From: [Matthew Schaefer](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:05:13 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive \$1.4 million in debt for the hockey arena. This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a parent of 3 young boys, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational programs have on young people. Facilities like the hockey arena provide a safe and welcoming environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. This thoughtful use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

I'm sorry that there is an outspoken minority of members of the community that vocally oppose this plan. It seems to me that they don't fully understand the details and only see a large dollar number. This is short sighted and doesn't reflect the values of our community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,
Matt Schaefer
1224 Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53703
321-795-4051

From: [Amy Schellpfeffer](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In support of the Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:29 PM

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My name is Amy Schellpfeffer and I am a resident of the City of Madison and a member of the Figure Skating Club of Madison and parent of skaters on Madison Ice Diamonds/Wisconsin Inspire Synchronized Skating teams. I would like to express my support for the Ice Arena Resolution that is being brought to the table at tonight's meeting.

I have 2 daughters, 17 and 20, who think of the ice rinks as home. They have grown up at Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Spending hundreds of hours at the rinks each year, every day after school, early Saturday mornings, all day on Sundays, all day during the summer. Both are employed by the rinks as teachers at learn-to-skate, attendants at public skates, assistant coaching at Madison Ice Diamonds. Our whole family volunteers at the rink events, help fundraise to improve the facilities, and even have had several birthday parties there when they were little. The rinks have provided them a safe place to grow and the people there have supported them at all stages of their life.

These rinks are not just a couple of buildings and some land, it's a community. A community that is passionate about providing and supporting everyone who walks through the doors. Thousands of youth sports, High school sports, recreational adult athletes, and community events would be displaced if Madison does not have these ice rinks. Employees would lose their jobs, events would no longer be held that bring thousands of people in to support our local businesses. I cannot even imagine how devastating this would be.

I am disappointed that it isn't already a unanimous discussion about what the city can do to help save and improve these rinks for our community.

Please vote to approve the Ice Arena Resolution.

Thank you,
Amy Schellpfeffer
1117 Velvet Leaf Dr
Madison, WI 53719

From: [Trishia Schroeder](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Cc: [Ronald Schroeder](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:55:24 AM

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Ron and Trishia Schroeder
398 North Bergamont Boulevard
Oregon, WI 53575
608-289-9853
tjschroeder@hotmail.com

January 14, 2025

City of Madison Common Council
210 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Madison Alders:

Number 87, by definition, is a symbol representing a value or the importance of something. So, what is the importance of 87? It is the number my 13-year-old son wears on his Madison Patriots hockey game jersey. A number representing Pittsburgh, PA, a native city to our neighbors who introduced the game of hockey to my son at the age of six. A city home to the Pittsburgh Penguins with Sidney Crosby #87, my son's first idolized NHL player. The number 87 symbolizing dedication, competitiveness, mental toughness, leadership, achievements, positive attitude, physical fitness; the many qualities we strive to instill in our youth. Wisconsin has 4,232 youth hockey players feeding the state's 90 high schools with sanctioned varsity hockey teams. Madison ice arenas alone hold 750 youth players not including high school hockey players, figure skaters or learn-to-skate programs. With ice times already limited and with my son's age group not starting practices until 9 pm on school nights, this community cannot afford to lose a sheet of ice. Like many activities, costs continue to be a concern. However, in June 2024, the Associated Press reported the US has seen a steady growth in hockey members surpassing Canada for the first time. We need to work together to grow together. I invite you to watch a practice, witness a game at Hartmeyer Ice Arena and then ask yourself, can I take away a rink that is home to many youth in our community that fosters all the good represented in the number 87?

Sincerely,
Ron and Trishia Schroeder

From: [Lisa S](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Vote
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:14:44 PM

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Good afternoon Alders,

I have two daughters who are in their third year of synchronized ice skating, following half a dozen years of learn to skate lessons before that. I am asking you to support keeping Madison's two community rinks open in the vote this week.

These two locations have served our community and surrounding communities for years. People of all ages, demographics, ethnicities, and abilities are able to participate in activities because of the programs offered. The rinks host non-profit organizations and clubs, several hockey teams (including high school teams), learn to play hockey, learn to skate lessons, performance shows, exhibitions, figure skating competitions, broom ball, public skate, as well as free program opportunities for low-income families. Without the support of this resolution, all of these programs and the rinks themselves could be gone. **None of the ice rinks in the surrounding cities offer the same types of things.**

My daughters are currently part of the Madison Ice Diamonds, an organization consisting of 7 different teams with each team having 10-20 members, and all of those people practice at these rinks. Teams from Wisconsin Inspire Figure Skating also practice and showcase their abilities there. Hundreds of people come through the doors of both ice rink locations on a daily basis!

The users of these facilities have been continuously fundraising over the past few years, and the monies raised have paid for some necessary repairs and upgrades. We need to ensure long-term stability for these rinks by allowing the money they bring in to go straight toward maintenance. Splitting ownership of the two rinks will allow the monies raised by each group to go even further toward keeping things operational. I thank you for your time reading this email, and for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Schwartz

High Point Estates, Madison

From: [Jackie Scola-Bernstein](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: In Support of Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:26:58 AM

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Mayor Rhodes-Conway and Madison Alders,

As a long-time resident of the Madison area, and the parent of two Madison Patriots Youth Hockey Players, I implore you to support the passage of the Madison Ice Arena Resolution in order to best support Hartmeyer Ice Arena and Madison Ice Arenas.

My pre-teen and teenage boys have been skating at Hartmeyer since they were toddlers, starting with skating lessons and moving into youth hockey. I've seen them grow on that ice, find their joy, manage the difficulties of a pandemic, and build life-long friends. The mentorship they have experienced at the hands of volunteer coaches and parents is unparalleled. They can step away from the difficult school days and just exist with their friends for a short while on the ice. They have learned hard lessons about loss, have experienced the joy of big wins, and have had their mental and physical abilities tested beyond belief. All at Hartmeyer.

Nowhere else in Madison can you find a community like Patriots Youth Hockey or Monona Grove or Navigators athletics. Stop by the rink at 7:30pm on a Friday for a HS hockey game or Saturday morning for mini-mites hockey, and you feel the same thing. A strong sense of community and togetherness. We take care of our own and welcome new faces every day. Once a hockey family, always a hockey family.

Our rinks urgently need support for infrastructure updates. These updates will help to preserve the rinks for the next generation of skaters and their families. These updates will help to maintain critical community programming from open ice times, to ice skating lessons, synchronized ice skating team, youth hockey, adult hockey and more. This rink is a gathering ground for our high school students looking to support their friends on a Friday night and a place for families to spend their weekends. To lose Hartmeyer would be to lose community.

Please support the Ice Arenas Resolution to help secure funding for these necessary improvements. Please let us preserve this space for generations to come.

Best,
Jackie Scola-Bernstein

From: [Deepti Sharma](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Cc: [Deepti Sharma](#); [Siddy Hubby](#)
Subject: Adaptive Learn-To-Skate program
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 11:42:58 PM

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Dear Madison City Council and Community Members,

We are writing to share our family's experience with the Adaptive Learn-to-Skate program at Madison Ice Arena, a program that has profoundly impacted our son's life over the past six years.

Since Fall 2017, our son Kapil has been participating in the adaptive skating program. As a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Kapil faces significant challenges with sensory defensiveness, balance, and coordination, making traditional sports and physical activities challenging. In the beginning, it was the same pattern with ice skating as well. The thought of falling or colliding with another skater terrified him so much that he refused to even go near the rinks. However, the adaptive skating program has provided something truly special – a safe space where he can learn, grow, and challenge himself at his own pace.

What makes this program uniquely valuable is its understanding approach to children with disabilities. The patient volunteer teachers have worked with Kapil year after year, providing consistent encouragement and guidance. In a traditional skating class, children who cannot keep pace with their peers often experience diminished confidence and may give up entirely. But here, Kapil and other children can progress at their own speed, celebrating small victories without the pressure of keeping up with typically developing peers.

After years of dedicated effort, Kapil is now able to skate – an achievement that once seemed impossible. While he's still building his confidence, each session brings new improvements. This program has done more than teach him a physical skill; it has boosted his self-esteem and opened doors to experiences that would traditionally be out of reach for children like him.

The adaptive skating program at Madison Ice Arena represents a rare opportunity in our city – a chance for children with disabilities to participate in a mainstream recreational activity in a way that accommodates their unique needs. For Kapil, it's developing into a hobby he can cultivate at his own pace and potentially enjoy for the rest of his life. It may even serve as a bridge to future social integration as his skills continue to develop.

The potential closure of these rinks would be disheartening for our family and many others like us. Kapil has invested years of effort to reach this point, gradually building both competence and confidence. Losing this program would mean losing one of the few recreational opportunities in Madison specifically designed to support children with disabilities. This is not an experience that can be easily replaced or replicated elsewhere in our community.

We urge you to consider the unique value these ice rinks bring to Madison's diverse community, particularly through programs like adaptive skating that make traditionally inaccessible activities available to all. These rinks provide much more than just ice – they provide opportunity, inclusion, and hope for families like ours.

Thank you for your consideration,
Deepti & Sid Bhat

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katelyn Shimpach](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:34:31 PM

You don't often get email from katelyn.smecko@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders,

Im writing to you asking for your full support in the Ice Arena Resolution. I am one of the figure skating coaches at both the Madison ice arena and Hartmeyer ice arena. These rinks mean the world to me, not only as my career now, but growing up as a young skater. They have shaped me into the woman I am today and I hope one day that my 7 month old daughter will get to skate there. They helped me be able to make my dreams come true by being a professional figure skater on cruise ships. Without these rinks, I don't know where I would be in life. And I have that to be thankful for. Please support this resolution and help other young skaters make their dreams come true.

Thanks,
Katelyn Shimpach

From: [Sarah and Jason Slott](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:41:57 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from theslottfamily@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

Sincerely

Sarah and Jason Slott

Sarah B. Slott
Commercial Sales Director
Quest Diagnostics
C. 608.772.1986

From: [Gus Small](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 11:56:44 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gusmall30@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

I am a parent of two kids who are currently in the hockey program at Hartmeyer. They have developed in so many ways due to the lessons they have learned through playing hockey. They see Hartmeyer as their "Home Ice", and take pride in playing there. Facilities like the ice arena provide a safe and welcoming environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. This thoughtful use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

Thank you,

Gus Small

From: [Pat & David](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Skating Rink-86168
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 4:53:24 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from panofsmith@tds.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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To Mayor Rhodes-Conway and the City of Madison Alders,

I am writing in support of resolution #86168 for the preservation of the Hartmeyer Arena. My children, now in their twenties, skated at Hartmeyer. Children in our east-side neighborhood currently skate at Hartmeyer. In fact, we know quite a few generations of kids and families for whom this arena has been an important destination. It's a place where kids spend time constructively and athletically and are less inclined to be staring at a screen (or worse). Please give this matter due consideration.

Many Thanks,
Patricia Smith

From: [Katie Sommers](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Arenas
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:29:49 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kesommers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing to implore you to find a solution to the ice arena problem that keeps the doors open. I am a lifelong Madison resident and, until recently, not from a hockey family. However, I attended high school hockey games in the 1990s at both arenas. My best friend was a cheerleader for the hockey team. When we were at those games, we were not out messing around, drinking, or doing drugs.

In a time when a sedentary lifestyle is the default and our kids struggle with an overwhelming rate of childhood obesity, this sport is an opportunity to keep them active, engaged, and off of screens. Participation in sports also leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety and decreases the risk of suicide, substance abuse, and other risky behaviors. Additionally, high school students that participate in sports have higher levels of academic achievement and realize life-long benefits. The entire community can also benefit through decreased health care costs and a stronger labor market. (President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Science Board, https://odphp.health.gov/sites/default/files/2020-09/YSS_Report_OnePager_2020-08-31_web.pdf)

My son plays for the Patriots Recreational team, which is a sort of catch-all for the kids who want to play hockey but don't have the time or resources to commit to a travel team. This team reminds me of the Mighty Ducks (except they rarely win a game). It's a co-ed team from schools all over the Madison area, with ages 9-14 and a variety of experience levels. It's heartwarming to see a strong 14-year-old skater pass the puck to a new 9-year-old player during a game, knowing that won't help the team win, but it will help the 9-year-old improve their skills and confidence. Skaters who have aged out of the program often return as assistant coaches to continue helping the team thrive.

My daughter, who has little interest in hockey, still loves going to the rink and performs at games there in the high school pep band.

These teams, clubs, and rinks are a community, a family. The parents and older siblings coach the teams; serve as team and equipment managers; operate the scoreboard, score sheets, and penalty boxes; work in the concession stands; and lead fundraisers. They also often referee the games. The parents pay very high fees (if they are able) so their kids can play, but somehow this is not enough to keep the rinks open. So they lead many, many fundraisers which include all sorts of activities: raffles, product sales, merchandise sales, restaurant nights, open skates, golf outings, and, yes, even bake sales.

When I was in high school, hockey seemed to be just for middle and upper-class white boys. That's not true anymore. Co-ed youth teams have become commonplace and Hartmeyer is now home to their first all-girls club, the Madison Dragons! Indeed, there are kids from all

different racial and economic backgrounds on my son's recreational team. These rinks also host a variety of adult teams including teams with disabilities. Amputee veterans get to play the sport they grew up loving. They can be active and can share their love of hockey with others facing similar struggles.

These facilities are highly used and a valuable asset to the City, even if the benefit is not monetary. It's a struggle to get ice time for teams and for many youth practice times, multiple teams share the ice. These rinks are extremely well-used and popular facilities.

Please, continue to invest in our kids and our community as you do in so many other ways!

Thank you for your time,

Katie Sommers

kesommers@gmail.com

From: josommers4@gmail.com
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:31:26 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from josommers4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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My grandson plays ice hockey. He started as a small child, not very good, and has developed in to a pretty good player. This activity is very beneficial to him, not just physically but also in training in teamwork. He plays at Hartmeyer as do many many other children. It is a valuable asset in this community and I urge you to vote in favor of

Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)

Thanks for your time and attention to this important matter.

Jo Sommers Hilltop Road, Madison.

From: [LARRY F. SOMMERS](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: In support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 8:52:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from larryfsommers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alders:

Please support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169. My grandson, Tristan Johnson, 12, plays hockey at Hartmeyer and other Madison rinks. It affords him physical exercise, team relationships, and a chance to have a great deal of innocent fun doing something that is a major tradition for young Madisonians.

Thank you for your support.

Larry F. Sommers

Author, [Izzy Strikes Gold!](#) and Price of Passage
438 Hilltop Drive
Madison WI 53711-1212

LarryFSommers@gmail.com

608-224-9854

<https://LarryFSommers.com>

From: [Tara Sommers](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:24:47 AM

You don't often get email from tarasommers@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello- my name is Tara Sommers. I am writing on behalf of the Madison Ice Arena Resolution final vote coming this week Tuesday. I have not written before because I do not live in the city of Madison, but my family resides in the Middleton-Cross Plains district and I feel it important to share why I urge you to please vote in favor of YES for the resolution so we can keep our extremely important ice rinks for this community!

My daughter began the Learn-to-Skate program at MIA at age 6, this is how she fell in love with the sport of figure skating and now at age 12 she is still going strong thanks to MIA and HIA. Neve not only does figure skating with the Figure Skating Club of Madison (FSCM) but since age 6 she has also been on the synchronized skating teams (Madison Ice Diamonds and Wisconsin Inspire). Our family often jokes that MIA/HIA are our "2nd home" but it really- sorta is.

The life lessons that my daughter has learned on the ice far surpass the actual "act" of skating. She has gained confidence (at age 6 to perform in front of a crowd!) she has learned the immense value of teamwork and the importance of hard work, dedication, compassion, patience, collaboration et al that comes with any team sport at such a young age. Most of the skaters on these teams and individual skaters not only excel on the ice under the careful, keen, loving, motivating and amazing qualities of their coaches- but they excel off ice as well. Most of the skaters on my daughter's team are honor roll students with high aspirations for the future. The friendships, mentorships and experiences that my daughter and her teammates have shared are immeasurable.

I know I am writing to you from my perspective as a figure skating parent- but I know you have also heard from parents and coaches in the community about the importance of these rinks for hockey leagues and adaptive skating, learn to skate programs and the programs these 2 rinks have provided.

To potentially lose these 2 rinks would be a devastating blow to this community, especially for figure skating. I know people often say that there are "so many" ice rinks in the area- but many of these rinks offer ice time/availability to only certain hockey leagues or other rinks such as Verona, McFarland for example have their own figure skating clubs and also vy for ice time-- so to lose MIA and HIA would essentially leave the Figure Skating club of Madison—without a home and skaters having to relocate to other clubs that have wait lists to be able to get on the ice (you can only have so many skaters on ice at once)- so it would be a major setback to say the least. Our amazing coaches of FSCM who have poured their hearts and passion into our youth would also be left behind.

I also feel that the synchronized skating team (Madison Ice Diamonds and Wisconsin Inspire)- without the ability to have ice time at MIA or HIA—would dissolve and that would be beyond

devastating for not only our family- but so many youths in the area. I urge you to watch a team, any team, perform a synchronized skating routine and you will see what an awesome sport it is.

Lastly, I want to summarize this lengthy email by saying thank you so very much for taking the time to read not only this email, but others. Thank you for your time and consideration towards the greater Madison community and I hope our emails convey just how much this means to so many.

"Individual commitment to a group effort- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work"- Vince Lombardi

"Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose- **it teaches you life**"- Billie Jean King

Best-

Tara L. Sommers, RN, MSN

Lt Col, retired, USAFR, NC

From: [Katherine Spurgeon](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:46:18 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from spurgeon.katie@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good evening,

I have registered to speak at the Common Council Meeting tomorrow night in support of Agenda Item #86169 regarding Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Attached is what I have prepared to say - my contact suggested I send a copy of this in advance.

Thank you for reading this, and your time and attention to this matter - the rinks mean the world to me.



Common Council Meeting Statement - 1/14/2025

Katie

--

Katie Spurgeon
FSC of Madison ~ Coach/Choreographer
FSC of the University of Wisconsin ~ Coaching Team
[ICE CALENDAR - LESSON AVAILABILITY](#)

From: [Maggie Steingraber-pharr](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution #86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:38 PM

You don't often get email from magsteinpharr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Madison Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing in support of saving the Hartmeyer ice area. This facility is an important part of our community.

It brings kids and adults together for programming like: learn to skate, figure skating and hockey.

It is an affordable place for kids to access these programs in their neighborhoods without having to drive out of town. As more people continue to move outside of Madison, maintaining infrastructure downtown will help keep families in the city of Madison.

My daughter and son took ice skating lessons at Hartmeyer. This helped develop a love of skating and now my son plays hockey for the Patriots. We love to ice skate as a family.

I work as a diabetes nurse practitioner at UW health. It is very important to keep kids physically active in the winter and engaged in team sports and Hartmeyer is essential for this to continue.

My husband, Sean Pharr, and I also own and operate Mint Mark and Muskellounge Sporting Club not far from Hartmeyer. As small business owners we understand the struggles that the COVID 19 pandemic placed on businesses. It takes time and support to recover.

Please support small businesses like Hartmeyer to continue and be run locally so they can continue to support the local community.

Madison needs an indoor ice arena!!

From: [Lauren Stockton](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:43:47 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from stockton_lauren@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good morning,

I want to share with you the importance of Hartmeyer Ice arena within the Madison community. This ice arena has provided countless children and families joy throughout the years. It has also provided kids within the community a sense of belonging as a part of the hockey or ice skating communities.

My own son who has ADHD struggled with socialization, working with others and following directions has grown leaps and bounds from joining the Patriots Youth Hockey organization. The time spent playing hockey at Hartmeyer has offered him another family and a second place he calls home.

He has positive role models and a positive environment in which he can learn and grow to become a successful community member. Hartmeyer Ice Arena has provided him with the stability, structure and activity kids with ADHD need. He has learned to cooperate, work hard, and persevere through difficult situations within this ice arena.

Closing this ice arena would negatively affect thousands of kids and families in Madison. Please don't shut down the building in which my son and hundreds of his friends have learned to become positive members of a community.

Thanks,
Lauren Zellmer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tony Sturm](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: please support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 9:39:32 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tonyeats@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I've never written to you all before, but I agree with my neighbors who are very worried that Hartmeyer will close without your action.

I'm a long-time East side resident and ice skater. I was on the front page of the State Journal last Valentines Day during one of my ice skating exploits.

Although I have only been to Hartmeyer a few times, accessible ice skating is an important part of what makes Madison great. Many people rely on this arena, and as public ice rinks' season seems to shorten, Madison's few ice arenas will be more important.

Best,
Tony Sturm, MD

From: [Ben Taylor-Feldman](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please support the Madison Ice Arena Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025 11:27:40 AM

You don't often get email from bentaylorfeldman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alders and Mayor,

I am 14 years old and a 9th grader at East High School. I have played hockey with the Madison Patriots at Hartmeyer Ice Arena since I was 6 years old. I urge the Madison Common Council to support the Ice Arena resolution to keep Hartmeyer and Madison's Westside rink open. I don't think that the few loud people who oppose this resolution understand how stressful it is to be a kid today. We worry about being shot in our classrooms. We worry about the environment and the future of our country. Hockey is an escape for me and many kids from the mental stress that we face every day. When I am skating, I forget about all of my worries. I do not understand why any person would not support this resolution to preserve and repair these ice rinks. Please invest in me and the other kids who live in Madison! I urge you to support the Madison Ice Arenas resolution.

Thank you!

Ben Taylor-Feldman
2102 Yahara Place
Madison, WI

From: [Ty Thomas](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: We support Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:50:58 PM

You don't often get email from tythomasc@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi all,

Hoard Street Madison resident here; chiming in to support the resolution to keep Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arenas operational. We're a family with children who have been able to utilize Hartmeyer for youth hockey and figure skating, and those programs have really helped our kids' development physically and socially.

Having ice available to us in our community is important for our family, as well as for families throughout and in the future.

Please consider that residents will benefit greatly from continuing to have skating ice available, whereas shaving a bit of money off of budget won't really give people anything more than numbers on a ledger.

All the best

--

Ty Thomas

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hello@photopossible.com

[\(608\)571-4321](tel:(608)571-4321)

From: [Matthew T](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support Resolution 86169
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:36:36 PM

You don't often get email from mtiradani@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

This email is to convey my support of Resolution 86169 to keep youth hockey in Madison. I grew up playing hockey and count that experience as defining who I am today. Team work, skill development, adversity, work ethic, and fun were the pillars of the sport. I use those same skills every day in business now.

My son and daughter are Madison Patriots now and I want them to have the same experiences I had so their lives can be shaped for the better as they grow up into young adults.

Please support the measure to keep Hartmeyer Ice Arena open.

Kind Regards,
Matthew Tiradani

From: [tom](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: vote No
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:27:36 PM

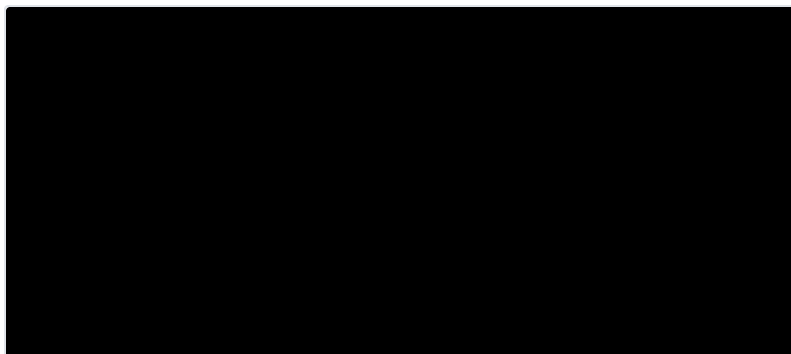
Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison taxpayers recently approved a permanent increase in the property tax levy after the mayor claimed the city was financially stretched thin and warned of cuts to basic services. Now, she's **proposing** to forgive \$1.6 million in unpaid debt, plus accrued interest, owed by Madison Ice, Inc., while authorizing the sale of Hartmeyer Ice Arena to East Madison Ice Collective and Madison Ice Arena to Madison Ice, Inc.—each for just \$1. The mayor claims the only alternatives to approving this bailout are for the city to take back the arenas, subsidize their operations—including \$3 million in deferred maintenance—or close the arenas entirely, further pressuring taxpayers to accept this deal.

=====

full story here:

[Why Aren't Ice Arena Users Paying Their Fair Share?](#)



Why Aren't Ice Arena Users Paying Their Fair Share?

"This is the line for free money, right?" Highlights • Despite consistent large surpluses, Madison Ice, Inc. has ...

**Tom,
Protect the 1st amendment, stop the censorship Google, FB, Twitter, MSM!**

From: [maureen treichel](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:05 PM

You don't often get email from maureentreichel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to urge your support for the passage of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) which would secure essential funding for infrastructure updates at Madison's ice rinks, including Hartmeyer Ice Arena. As a parent whose children first stepped onto Hartmeyer's ice when they were just 4 and 5 years old, I have personally witnessed the incredible impact this facility has on our community. Now teenagers, my children still cherish their time at Hartmeyer – a testament to how these rinks create lifelong connections to skating and our community.

These facilities urgently need infrastructure improvements to remain operational and continue serving our community. The proposed resolution is critical because:

- Without these necessary updates, we risk losing these valuable community facilities
- Infrastructure improvements will preserve the rinks for the next generation of Madison skaters
- The funding will help maintain vital community programming that benefits residents of all ages

Our ice rinks are more than just recreational facilities – they are community hubs that provide essential programs for youth development, family recreation, and competitive sports. By investing in these infrastructure updates now, we can ensure these valuable community assets continue to serve Madison residents for years to come.

The infrastructure improvements covered by this resolution represent a crucial investment in our community's future. Beyond the direct benefits to skaters, Hartmeyer also drives significant economic activity in the surrounding neighborhood. Our family regularly patronizes local businesses before and after ice time – restaurants, shops, and services that we wouldn't typically visit if we weren't coming to the rink. Many other families do the same, creating a vital economic ecosystem around the facility.

This funding will help maintain safe, reliable facilities that can continue hosting:

- Youth hockey programs
- Figure skating instruction
- Public skating sessions
- School and community events
- Adaptive sports programs

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of the Ice Arenas Resolution. Your support will help secure the future of these important community facilities and ensure they remain available for the next generation of Madison residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Maureen Treichel

5609 Winnequah Trail

Monona, WI 53716

262-751-8371

From: [Diane Michalski Turner](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: No forgiveness of \$1.6m ice arenas debt
Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 4:19:07 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Madison Mayor and Alders,

I pay high property taxes as a Madison home owner. I read about the adjustments that can be made to Madison residential properties to increase housing in Madison. And I read that the Mayor wants to forgive \$1.6 million on the ice areas debt. Putting all these facts together, I say:

- * Obtain the \$1.6 million on the ice arenas debt
- * Cut property taxes because this \$1.6 million will come into the City's coffers
- * Give homeowners monies to increase their housing with monies secured from the ice areas debt
- * Decrease property taxes so that homeowners can reduce what they ask their renters to pay

Thank you,
Diane Michalski Turner

From: [Mary Tzakis](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Keep Hartmeyer open
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 1:11:14 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from marybro0516@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

I am writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.

It is such a wonderful place to have open for our children on the north side.

Thank you so much for considering!!

Best,
Mary

From: [Tom Vetter](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Fw:
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:47:26 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tvetter47@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Friday, January 10, 2025, 10:41DAEM

outlook.com 2025-01-10

----- Forwarded message -----

We are writing today to ask for your support for Resolution # 86169. We were both born and raised in Madison. We never played hockey but we have four children that played youth hockey. Three of them played for Monona Grove High School. Our daughter Jessie Vetter went on to play for the UW and won three national championships, and was a two time Olympic Medalist. Now we have two grandsons playing for the Madison Patriots at Hartmeyer ice arena. This resolution is really about everyone's kids and grandkids. We have seen enough bad things happening to kids, let's do something good for them. Thank you for your time and service. Tom and JoAnn Vetter;

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Erin Vincent](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support Hartmeyer's Future
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:35:13 PM

You don't often get email from vincent.erin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Mayor and Alders,

I'm writing as a parent of two hockey players with the Madison Patriots, and a dedicated member of the Hartmeyer community. Our family spends countless hours at the rink each week—it's truly our home away from home. We are so fortunate to have Hartmeyer in our neighborhood, a rink that has served generations of hockey players and figure skaters on the north and east sides of Madison.

Beyond its role as a sports facility, Hartmeyer is an important part of our community. It hosts free skates and Learn to Skate programs, offering local kids the opportunity to engage in healthy, active recreation. My youngest child was introduced to hockey at a "Try Hockey Free" event hosted by the Patriots, and from there, the love of the sport took off.

Hartmeyer provides a safe space for children to develop their skills and stay active—but its impact goes beyond just youth sports. As a community hub, it draws people from all over the city, bringing more traffic to local businesses. Imagine how much more vibrant our area could be if Hartmeyer hosted additional hockey tournaments and figure skating competitions, further supporting our local economy.

Without Hartmeyer, this side of the city would lack a facility for hockey teams (including high school teams), figure skaters, and recreational skaters. With ice time already scarce in the Madison area, the absence of this rink would make it even harder for youth programs to thrive.

We all know Hartmeyer is in need of repairs, and we must act now to ensure its future. The rink is vital for our children and for the continued growth of our community. On behalf of my family and my two hockey players, I respectfully ask for your support of the Arena's resolution to secure the funding necessary to maintain and improve Hartmeyer for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erin Vincent
vincent.erin@gmail.com

From: [Joe Warstler](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Ice Arena debt forgiveness
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:49:37 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jwarstler1985@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing on behalf of my family (Joe and Julie Warstler in DeForest) in support of forgiving the debt for the Ice Arenas so that they may fundraise and improve facilities.

Our daughter is now 9 and has been ice skating at Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer since she was about 5 years old. What started off as the learn to skate program so that she could gain that skill has now turned into years of spending a great deal of time at the ice arenas, which are now almost her second home. She now skates 3-4 times a week and figure skating and synchronized skating has become a major part of her general development and friend group. It has not only been transformational for her, but also for my wife and I who spend a great deal of time there along with volunteering and more.

I do strongly urge you to approve of the debt forgiveness. It will allow the arenas to both fundraise and improve upon facilities that need it. These facilities serve the community in a great way beyond hockey and figure skating with learn to skate programs, adaptive skating, and more and are constantly in use day to day. We truly hope for your consideration in supporting this so that the programs may improve even more and that we can bring back some pride to our arenas and make them even better and an overall better representation of our city.

Thank you!

From: [J. Dillon Weerasinghe](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: WE NEED OUR ICE RINKS!
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:51:01 PM

You don't often get email from jdillonw84@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

I am writing to share how important ice rinks are for my kids.

I have 2 kids aged 8 and 4 years and we take part in figure skating and ice hockey.

Madison Ice Arena/ Hartmeyer Ice Arena has been monumental in the learning of skating to my kids. We moved to US in 2017 and this has been our first experience of skating for our family - and it plays a pivotal role of experiencing skating and developing strength and conditioning.

The friends she has made and the families we have connected with is very special to us.

I kindly ask that you support the Ice Arena Resolution which is important to our kids and us adults as well.

Thank you
Joe

From: [Jonathan Weerts](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Fwd: Hartmeyer Concerns
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 4:09:59 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jonathan Weerts <jjweerts@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 15, 2024 at 9:41 PM
Subject: Hartmeyer Concerns
To: <District12@cityofmadison.com>
CC: Foster, Grant <district15@cityofmadison.com>

Hello Ald. Burris, I hope you are gearing up for a great new year. My name is Jonathan Weerts, and I live at 521 Grand Oak Trail, in Ald. Martinez-Rutherford's district (copied).

I would like to inject some scrutiny regarding Madison Ice's proposed loan forgiveness. My apologies in advance, I was unable to make it to the informational meeting. No need to respond with additional detail unless you would like, this is more food for and me sounding an objection to the potential debt forgiveness package.

Their request honestly doesn't make much sense to me given land values and redevelopment opportunities in the area.

- 1) Wouldn't it make sense to have Madison Ice sell the property and pay the city back in full?
- 2) Or, wouldn't it make sense for them to fundraise for the delinquent loan payments, if they have the ability to fundraise for a new capitalization?
- 3) Why didn't the City enforce its rights to begin with???
- 4) Can the City foreclose on the asset, sell the property, and use the proceeds to invest in a new, modern, efficient facility somewhere else?

This really feels like some weird give-away to Madison Ice, very bad optics.

JW

From: [Brian Winnie](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Hartmeyer
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:36 AM

You don't often get email from bwinnie@kUSD.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Members of the Madison Common Council and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

I am writing to express my strong support and encouragement for the city to fund the necessary improvements to Madison's ice rinks. These facilities urgently need infrastructure updates to remain operational and continue serving the community effectively. The proposed updates will not only preserve the rinks for the next generation of skaters but also maintain critical community programming that benefits countless residents and businesses.

On a personal note, I grew up in the Madison area, playing for the Madison Patriots youth organization and my high school hockey at Monona Grove. Both of these teams played out of Hartmeyer then and still do today. I have core memories of our high school team filling the bleachers with community members as we made a great run through the playoffs. Additionally, I had the privilege of learning the game under local legends Bob Suter and Mark Johnson at Hartmeyer. These experiences were instrumental in shaping my love for hockey.

Now, as a high school coach in Kenosha, I make it a point to play against one of the Madison area high school teams at Hartmeyer every year. Hockey in Madison has a long and storied history, and losing Hartmeyer would be a significant blow to the east side community. Therefore, I strongly recommend the approval of the necessary funding to keep this rink alive and thriving.

Thank you for considering my request. I am confident that with your support, we can ensure that Madison's ice rinks continue to be a vital part of our community for years to come.

Sincerely,
Brian Winnie

Brian Winnie

Head Coach

Kenosha Thunder High School Hockey Team

608-206-6792

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From: [Drew Witte](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:40:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dwitte82@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Madison Alders and Mayor Rhodes-Conway,

As a resident of 10 years on the Eastside of Madison, I'm emailing you to ask you to support the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution.

Three years ago, my oldest son randomly wanted to play ice hockey, so I signed him up with the Patriots Youth Hockey Association at Hartmeyer. Two years later, my middle son signed up for the Patriots to be like his big brother. During the winter months now, I go to Hartmeyer about 5 times a week. I watch my 5th and 1st grader stay active in the winter while making friends and learning life lessons about how practicing with determination will improve their skills. They won't make the NHL, but they will continue to use this determination and grit as they grown into adults in the Madison community.

I was just at Hartmeyer this Friday night for two hours as both my kids practiced. I watched from the stands as a community of friends and families filed through the doors. I urge you to go watch practice nights if you want to see parents supporting their kids and friends on the ice and off the ice. This is a truly organic community that has been together on the east side of Madison for over 40 years.

Yes, the Hartmeyer facility needs to be updated. When I see the Madison's youth hockey community gather at the Hartmeyer Arena for 5 hours every weekday during the winters, I am reminded of this lyric from Johnny Cash's 'Ragged Old Flag': "She's getting threadbare and wearing thin, But she's in good shape for the shape she's in." The Hartmeyer facility is looking rough and needs updating; however, there is an incredibly strong community spirit behind Hartmeyer. And frankly, Hartmeyer is part of the fabric of Madison.

I ask you to vote to support this long standing Madison community continue for at least 40 more years at Hartmeyer Arena.

Sincerely,

Drew Witte
1613 Brynwood Dr
Madison, WI

From: [Sara Wolf](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: The Common Council 1/14/25 6:30pm agenda item Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 3:35:10 PM

You don't often get email from sara.b.olm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello Alders,

My name is Sara Wolf and I am writing to express my support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169).

This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a player, parent, spectator, family member, friend, and now coach, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational programs have on young people. My family has been involved with hockey and growing up in ice arenas for as long as i can remember, my brother and I started playing hockey and spending time at rinks at age 5. We now BOTH live in the Madison area and continue to share the love of the ice rink and the skating community with our children as parents. We GIVE BACK to the community by being coaches of players in the Patriot's Youth hockey association and hope to continue to be able to do so.

Facilities like this ice arena provide a safe and welcoming community and environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. We are growing our girls hockey program rapidly, as well, our rink has provided Rec programs which continue to grow and provide opportunities for those who love the game but want to keep it local. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. This use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

I'm disheartened that there is an outspoken minority of members of the community that vocally oppose this plan. It seems to me that they may not fully understand the details and only see a large dollar number. This is short sighted and doesn't reflect the values of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the [Madison Ice Arenas Resolution \(item #86169\)](#).

--

Sara Wolf

From: [Jami Wood](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Vote in Support of Resolution #86169
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:19:54 AM

You don't often get email from jamilane.wood@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello City of Madison Officials,

I'm writing in regards to Hartmeyer Ice Arena. I have a long history with Hartmeyer. My kids learned to ice skate in that space. We tried MSCR lessons but the unreliable nature of weather and ice made them awful. My son fell in love with hockey at Hartmeyer, and he will feed into Madison East High School who also practices in that space.

For hockey we do a lot of traveling. We see ice arenas all over the state, and I am always shocked about how small rural towns in Wisconsin take better care of their arenas than we do. We have D1 Collegiate Hockey and para-professional hockey teams that we claim to love and be proud of, but we put no effort at all into our youth hockey. The city made it clear long ago that it didn't care about its ice arenas when it sold to Madison Ice. However, Madison Ice doesn't care about our programs either and has been a neglectful steward. Madisonians love ice skating. You see it when the lakes freeze over that people go out and shovel off patches as soon as they can to skate. We need someone who has a passion for this sport to have the rights they need to care for our ice arenas.

I understand that the city has a budget crisis. However, Hartmeyer was not an asset, but rather a liability. No money has been made off of Hartmeyer in a long time. By giving the East Madison Ice Collective ownership of Hartmeyer the city will be able to concentrate on other endeavors, and will improve the quality of life of Madisonians by giving them a place to skate that is the level of quality that you would expect of a capitol city. Please make the mutually beneficial decision and vote yes on Resolution #86169.

Kind regards,
Jami, Adam, Aaron and Micah Wood

434 N. Few St.
Madison

From: [Mara Yorizzo](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena.
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 9:03:33 AM

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Dear Mayor and Common Council Members,

We are writing to support the East Madison Ice Collective which has been working diligently with the City of Madison to establish a sustainable structure for ownership and improvements for Hartmeyer Ice Arena. Please vote in favor of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169) and East Madison Ice Collective on Tuesday 1/14.”

Thank you so much for considering!!

Best regards,
Mara Yorizzo
& Beckham Yorizzo (age 2, future skater)

Mara Yorizzo

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Assistant Director of Career Management, MSBA and MSFE Programs

mara.yorizzo@wisc.edu | 608-265-5860 | [linkedin.com/in/marayorizzo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marayorizzo)

Students! Make appointments with me [in Handshake!](#)

Open office hours Wednesdays 12:30pm-2pm

Wisconsin School of Business: 2450 Grainger Hall, 975 University Ave



From: [Owen Z](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for Hartmeyer and MIA
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 11:28:46 AM

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Hello,

Please do not shut down Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arenas.

I am writing to express my support for Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arenas. I am a current college student, and my experiences at these rinks have made me into the person I am today. MIA and Hartmeyer bring so many invaluable qualities to the Madison community, their loss would be detrimental.

Thank you,
Owen Zanni

From: [Jingbo Zhang](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: In Support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution (#86169)
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 12:51:10 PM

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Good afternoon,

My name is Jingbo Zhang, a retired Army Veteran, who lives in Cottage Grove. Even though I'm not a Madison resident, I have worked and previous lived in Madison many years. I'm sending this email in support of the Madison Ice Arenas Resolution. My family have two kids currently utilizing the Hartmeyer Ice arena as part of the Madison Patriots Youth Hockey organization. Without the local ice arena, it would be devastating to youth winter sports. Also the arena definitely bring customers to the local economy. Whenever I drop my kids off for practice, I would shop at Pick and Save, Walmart, Patricia's Market, Madison Oriental Market; pickup food at Great China, Dough Boy's Pizza, Esquire Supper Club; gas up from KwikTrip. And of course, getting all the hockey equipment from Suter's Gold Medal Sports.

Thank you for your time and please support the resolution.

Jingbo Zhang

From: [Joe Z](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer ice rink
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2025 11:23:17 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from assid33@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Madison's plan to forgive the debt associated with the Madison Ice Arenas (resolution #86169). This decision represents a significant investment in the future of our community. By alleviating the financial burden on this important facility, the city creates new opportunities to expand and enhance programming that benefits our youth. Access to well-maintained recreational spaces like this arena is critical for fostering teamwork, leadership, and lifelong skills in children of all backgrounds.

As a parent, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that sports and recreational programs have on young people. Facilities like the ice arena provide a safe and welcoming environment where kids can grow, learn, and thrive. I applaud the city's commitment to prioritizing initiatives that support the well-being and development of our youth. This thoughtful use of public resources strengthens our community and ensures that future generations have access to the programs and opportunities they need to succeed.

I'm sorry that there is an outspoken minority of members of the community that vocally oppose this plan. It seems to me that they don't fully understand the details and only see a large dollar number. This is short sighted and doesn't reflect the values of our community.

Respectfully,

Joe Znidarsich - parent of 3 hockey players and longtime volunteer at Hartmeyer

From: [Emily Zoeller](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please support the ice rink resolution, for girl athletes and MMSD retention
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:20:00 AM

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Dear Alders,

My name is Emily Zoeller, I have three daughters, I am a Madison resident, and I'm writing to ask your support for the ice rink resolution.

My 12-year-old daughter has been involved in hockey for three years. An all girls team, the Dragons, has offered her skill development, team building, and confidence. An all girls' team is a unique opportunity.

Hockey, including girls hockey, is only possible with a city ice rink.

Please support the proposal for Hartmeyer ice rink. It aligns with the city's values of wellness and its vision of accessibility.

Anecdotally, I notice many of my older daughters' classmates who have chosen to leave Madison schools for hockey opportunity in neighboring suburbs. The ice rink is one of the reasons for this. I believe investing in our city ice rink would also serve in retaining youth at Madison high schools.

Thank you, Emily Zoeller

From: [Emily Zoeller](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Rink resolution
Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 3:50:54 PM

You don't often get email from emilyczoeller@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Alders,

My name is Emily Zoeller, I have three daughters, I am a Madison resident, and I'm writing to ask your support for the ice rink resolution.

My 12-year-old daughter has been involved in hockey for three years. An all girls team, the Dragons, has offered her skill development, team building, and confidence. An all girls' team is a unique opportunity.

Hockey, including girls hockey, is only possible with a city ice rink.

Please support the proposal for Hartmeyer ice rink. It aligns with the city's values of wellness and its vision of accessibility.

Anecdotally, I notice many of my older daughters' classmates who have chosen to leave Madison schools for hockey opportunity in neighboring suburbs. The ice rink is one of the reasons for this. I believe investing in our city ice rink would also serve in retaining youth at Madison high schools.

Thank you, Emily Zoeller