

From: [Tom Groth](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Madison Mayor](#); [Tom Groth](#)
Subject: I Co-Founded Madison Ice Inc
Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 8:21:30 AM

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Greetings City of Madison Common Council and Mayor,

In calendar year 2000, after 5 years of effort - I cofounded Madison Ice Inc, that purchased Hartmeyer and Madison Ice Arenas from the City of Madison.

At the time Mayor Bauman was trying to cut the growing \$250K annual Ice Enterprise subsidy in half. In our first year we were able to generate ~ \$100K surplus by simply moving from 90% full time employees to 3 FTEs and the rest part time staff.

After almost 25 years the ice arena is facing financial uncertainty again. This time most likely due to the non-profit leaderships ego based decision making and a lack of integrity.

MII had the opportunity to sell Hartmeyer to UW and NHL all star Ryan Suter, but their leaders ego blocked the sale. Now Ryan is building a new indoor/outdoor ice arena in DeForest.

For longterm success Hartmeyer does not need a city bail out. The facility built in 1960 requires new leadership.

Best regards,

Tom Groth
Co-Founder Madison Ice Inc.

From: [Rachel Holloway](#)
To: [Guequierre, John](#); [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Arenas
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 4:55:32 PM

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

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Dear Alder Guequierre, Madison Alders and members of the Finance Committee:
I just became aware of the resolution City's involvement in the future of two ice arenas, Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena.

I do not have an opinion at this time as to the specifics of how the arenas get owned or how the current debt gets managed (the resolution on the table appears to have potential to be amended in more than one way). However, I want to express my strong support for both of these facilities as important recreational facilities in the city. This includes the forgiveness of the debt associated with the rinks, if that is found to be feasible for the City's budget in the coming years. I would also support creative ideas for how these sites may be used in the future, such as locating other uses/businesses on the sites if that could help them sustain financially.

It is true that we have not had as many opportunities in recent years for outdoor ice skating due to warm (or fluctuating) winter weather. These rinks fill a unique niche in the "sports and recreation" landscape in our city, which is well known as a place for active lifestyles.

I am a regular user of both arenas. For the past two years, the Madison Ice Arena has been the primary space for my regular exercise regimen. Most months I skate there weekly, and during the summer when MIA was closed I went to the east side to skate at Hartmeyer. They have become my main workout space, in lieu of a gym membership. I find that ice time is critical for maintaining my physical and mental health, as well as providing a fun hobby. In addition, I have met several other skaters who are also regulars at these rinks -- it brings so much joy to have this comraderie and be part of the skating community!

The only drawback that I have experienced with these two rinks is the somewhat limited times available to skate. Public skating hours are during weekdays when I am normally working a 9-to-5 job. My workout time on the ice is so important that I have arranged my work schedule so I can skate on a late "lunch break" or make up the time by working late. (Thankfully my employer allows this, many people do not have such flexibility.)

I would be remiss to not mention that I also skate at the new Sub Zero rink at the UW Madison Bakke Center, as that fills the gaps when I cannot leave work to get to one of the other two rinks, or want to skate on the weekend because the schedule is more accommodating. But my preference is to skate at MIA if there were more times available, due to its location and ease of access and parking. We must use what we have available!

Please support Madison's public rinks! Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel J. Holloway
racheljacques@gmail.com

District 19 Resident

From: [Laura LaFleur](#)
To: [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#)
Cc: [Mayor](#); [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Please support our Ice Rinks
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 7:57:37 AM

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I am reaching out to request that you support the Ice Arena Proposal at tonight's Common Council meeting (item 88 on the agenda). I recently voted in support of Madison's property tax referendum because I believe in a strong city that supports the needs and passions of its citizens. Skating at our local ice rinks has changed my life. I'm a better human and neighbor because I have this space to be with community and feel ALIVE! Ice sports make Wisconsin and Madison special. They set us apart and are embedded in our culture. Please support this proposal, so that this community can continue to thrive.

Laura LaFleur
30 Wirth Ct, Madison, WI 53704

From: [Heather Duncan and Amy Schellpfeffer](#)
To: [Harrington-McKinney, Barbara](#)
Cc: [Finance Committee](#); [Mayor](#); [All Alders](#); madisoniceinboard@gmail.com
Subject: Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution on 11/26/2024
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 7:57:40 AM

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Dear Alder Harrington-McKinney and colleagues,

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).

On November 26, 2024, 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.

My daughters, who are now 17 and 20 years old, have been involved in learn-to-skate, synchronized skating, and figure skating at Madison Ice Arena and Hartmeyer Ice Arena since they were 3 and 5 respectively. Our family considers these rinks our second home and as a parent, the programs and people who are involved in them have helped shape my children into some of the most well rounded, self confident, poised young women I know. They have both been employed by Madison Ice Inc, teaching learn-to-skate, coaching synchro, and working public skates. They have learned self-discipline and teamwork, how to take direction from coaches and

supervisors, and the value of a job and a place on a team, as well as earn money to help them pay for skating and college later on. The people we have met through skating have supported us through many difficult times in our family's lives, when we've lost family members to death, had mental health struggles, and divorce. I am so grateful for the rinks and how they bring people together to form a community within a community.

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,

Amy Schellpfeffer
1117 Velvet Leaf Dr
Madison, WI 53719

From: [Fields, Debbie](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Urgent - Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution Tonight
Date: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:40:08 AM

Alders,

The following email was received in the Council Office inbox.

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

From: Laura Swisher <laurabeaswisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 1:07 PM
To: Conklin, Nikki <district9@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: council <council@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Urgent - Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution Tonight

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Dear Alder Conklin -

Thank you in advance for reading my message. I hope it is helpful as you consider your support of the resolution that is to be discussed in your council meeting this evening...I wanted to include how much the rinks mean to us (it is a great deal) and I'll try not to make it too long.

My name is Laura Swisher and I live in your district (on Oxwood Circle). My husband and I moved to the area 10 years ago from Pittsburgh for an amazing opportunity for him. We were excited to join an amazing place where we had only spent long weekends despite it being far from home (we are both new englanders). When we told our then 5 year old son, Will, we were moving he asked two questions - it went something like this:

Will - "Okay - Wisconsin - well, what are they?"

Us - (looking puzzled) - "what do you mean?"

Will - "Will Pittsburgh is the Panthers - what is Madison?" (He was referring to the University of Pittsburgh's mascot.)

My Husband "The Badgers"

Will - "Okay, I can be a badger. Can I play hockey when we get there?"

Us - "Yes - we will work on it."

Our then 5 year, asked for a cookie and went to pack. We moved here 2 months later, looked for a close ice rink and quickly enrolled him in skating lessons and then

6 months later - he started playing for the West Madison Polar Caps in their cross ice program. Fast forward 10 years later and that 5 year old is still playing. Tonight as you are in your meeting, he will have his first game as a Memorial Spartan and he couldn't be more excited or proud to represent his school and his community. I am not one to get emotional but there will probably be a tear in my eye when he takes to the ice.

Over the past 10 years I think we have spent countless days, nights and early mornings at the rink for practices, games, volunteering, lessons, clinics and community events. The friends that he met playing have supported him throughout celebrations of his first goal to heart breaks of losing to a long time rival yet again. My son is not the best player on the ice by far but he loves the game. He has learned teamwork, perseverance, hard work, handling disappointment with his head held high and winning with grace ... and that is all because MIA gave him a place to play.

And he is just one of many many kids and adults who have benefited from the city's generosity. I can only imagine how hard your job and the job of your fellow council members is as you work to balance spending and community priorities. You must receive requests all day and from a number of perspectives. In your discussion tonight about our rinks, I ask that for kids like Will you please strongly consider supporting the Ice Arena Resolution so that we can continue to provide these experiences for many more years to come. I have attached two photos of Will one from his first year as a Polar Cap and a second in his Memorial uniform. Despite the more grown up look on the most recent photo, please know he is smiling just as big as in the earlier one on the inside.

Thank you for your time, your effort and your dedication to our community. If you have any questions about my message - please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best - Laura Swisher
412-260-2476

Will Swisher





From: [Ben Taylor-Feldman](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#); [Rummel, Marsha](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer ice rink-
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 7:57:34 AM

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

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Hello

My name is Ben Taylor-Feldman, I am a ninth grade student at East High School as well as a youth hockey player for the Madison patriots. While school can cause stress, hockey always helps relieve my anxiety and clear my mind; as well as keeping me in shape. While Hartmeyer is one of the lower end rinks, it is a community staple for allowing youth hockey in the Madison area to continue. If Hartmeyer were to close many families would not be able to proceed with youth hockey thanks to no rinks being easily accessible including mine. Closing hartmeyer would have a massive effect on the youth and is a terrible idea. Invest in youth hockey by saving Hartmeyer!

Sincerely- Ben Taylor-Feldman, 2102 Yahara Place, Madison

From: [taylor.warsek](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Ice Rinks
Date: Thursday, November 28, 2024 7:06:55 AM

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

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I would like to thank Alder Guequierre, my Alder, and all the rest of the council for slowing down the decision making on how to best solve this situation. I was very quick to respond negatively to knowledge of this initial resolution involving the handling of taxpayers money, so now I'd be thankful for Alder John's and your quick responses.