



NORTH DALE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 ST. ALBANS ST. N.
SAINT PAUL, MN 55117

June 2nd, 2015

City of St. Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
St. Paul, MN 55102

Subject: CIB Funding for the North Dale and Phalen Hockey Rink Renovation

Dear Mayor, Members of the City Council and CIB Committee Members

My name is Ted Steiner. I am Vice President of the North Dale Community Center Booster Club in North End neighborhood. We are responsible for raising supplemental funds to improve the quality of athletic/building facilities to serve the families in our neighborhood. As you know, North Dale and Phalen Recreation Centers are well-loved in the community. During our Minnesota winters, the hockey rink is generally crowded with skaters and teams, used by thousands of community members every season. Every year the North Dale Recreation Center hosts the St. Paul Winter Classic, an all-girls youth hockey tournament, coinciding with Hockey Day Minnesota.

I am asking you today to fund the North Dale and Phalen Community Center Rink Renovation in this year's capital improvement budget.

The existing refrigerated rinks, that utilize a temporary mat system, is expensive to maintain. Labor, operation, and maintenance cost tax payers approximately \$50,000 each year per rink. Additionally, the system is showing unanticipated wear and repair, requiring more maintenance each year.

The community is adversely affected in terms of safety, cost, and recreational availability. As the rink ages and fatigues, safety concerns become an issue. We often have to close the rink for weeks at a time due to a leaks in the main refrigeration lines that may be inaccessible, buried under deep snow and ice.

By making the hockey rink refrigeration system permanent, the City of Saint Paul can ensure the following in our community:

- Improved safety conditions in the winter for hockey players by providing a consistent thickness and uniform density of ice. The aging coils are susceptible to warping, increasing the likelihood of being severed by hockey skates when ice coverage is thin.
- Improved safety conditions in the summer for roller blades by permanently removing the sand required to set the coils onto the concrete slab.
- Lengthening the skating season by as much as four weeks by eliminating the time it takes to set up and take down the existing coil refrigeration system in the fall and spring.
- Increasing the remaining life span of the rink from an estimated five years to likely 25 years or more.
- Saving the tax payers thousands of dollars per year by reallocating city labor and reducing contractor/vendor costs for the installation and maintenance of the current coil refrigeration system.

By funding the North Dale and Phalen Community Center Rink Renovation, the City of Saint Paul can ensure safe and quality youth hockey for years to come.

Sincerely,

Ted Steiner
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