

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108

December 12, 1975

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The following is an extract from records of meeting of the Commission held on December 12, 1975:

"At this point, after a lengthy and thorough discussion, the Commission voted to adopt the following statement of policy regarding skating rink facilities:

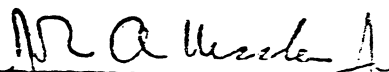
In view of the fact that the Metropolitan District Commission now operates 26 artificial ice skating rinks, many more than are operated by any other public agency in the country, and in view of the difficulty and substantial expense of maintaining existing facilities in an era of reduced resources, and in view of the substantial decline in the demand for skating time which has occurred since 1972, the Commission feels it would be an appropriate and responsible public policy to declare a moratorium of two (2) years in the construction program involving additional skating facilities.

Said moratorium shall be used to evaluate usage trends and to review in detail the possibility of future divestiture of skating facilities. There is substantial reason to feel that skating facilities are becoming more local than regional in nature. Therefore, these facilities might be appropriately operated by small consortiums of member communities.

The Metropolitan District Commission therefore declares it to be the policy of the Commission that there shall be a moratorium on the construction of any additional ice skating facilities until January 1, 1978 so that use and demand patterns, maintenance needs, staffing requirements and costs can be better evaluated.

In order to implement this evaluation and moratorium, the Commission further VOTED to request the cooperation of the General Court with regard to the following proposed skating rinks:

- (a) North Cambridge - Since the \$950,000 authorized by Chapter 725 of the Acts of 1970 will not be sufficient for the construction of a skating rink, the Commission recommends that no action be taken to supplement the available funds during the moratorium.
- (b) Somerville (Dilboy Field) - In view of the fact that existing recreational facilities will in some way be diminished at the Dilboy Field complex with the addition of a skating rink mandated in Chapter 519 of 1974, the Commission recommends that efforts go forward to identify an alternative site for said skating facility during this moratorium.
- (c) East Boston - Community sentiment has shifted in favor of alternative recreation and to accomplish this, Chapter 725 of 1970 and Chapter 976 of 1971 requires amending and the Commission will ask the East Boston legislative delegation to file such amendments in the next session of the General Court.


JOHN A. KESSLER, JR.
Secretary



City of Cambridge

For

4.
IN CITY COUNCIL
December 22, 1975

Councillor Danehy

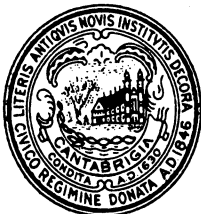
ORDERED:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide this City Council with an up to date status report on the nonexistent "Skating Rink" on New Street which was to have been constructed by the Metropolitan District Commission.

City Council December 23, 1975

Mayor
8

Paul E. Hely



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

January 12, 1976

The Honorable, The City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Councillors:

The following information is pursuant to your request of December 22, 1975, for a status report on the yet-to-be-built MDC North Cambridge Skating Rink.

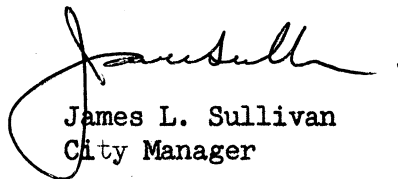
Upon taking office, Governor Dukakis suspended most State construction projects pending review of financial and public need considerations. As part of this review, the MDC conducted a preliminary evaluation of its skating rink operation.

Based upon this evaluation, the MDC adopted the enclosed statement of policy. This policy declares a two-year moratorium on construction of additional skating facilities, during which time a fuller evaluation of MDC skating rink responsibilities is to be made. The Commission also voted to request the Legislature not to supplement, during this period, the funds originally appropriated for the North Cambridge rink. These funds had been found to be insufficient for the project.

Although the original action of the Legislature on the North Cambridge rink not only appropriated the funds but mandated the MDC to construct the facility, the insufficiency of these funds and the MDC's moratorium policy cloud this project's future. Unless the Legislature appropriates sufficient supplementary funds, the rink cannot be built despite the mandate. If, after the moratorium and evaluation, the MDC recommends against the project, the Legislature may very well not vote the necessary funds.

I intend to work closely with the MDC during its evaluation to help determine the best course of action for the City of Cambridge. I will keep the Council informed of any significant developments.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

Agenda #1 S-17
Re: MDC Skating Rink in North Cambridge.

1/19/76
Placed on File

In City Council,
Jan. 19, 1976