

From: Raquel Paula

Date: July 16, 2025 at 17:02:25 EDT

To: "Tamash, Craig"

Subject: Concern Regarding Discontinuation of Learn to Skate Program at HYCC

Dear Craig,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and concern regarding the recent decision to discontinue the Learn to Skate program at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center (HYCC). This long-standing and foundational program embodies the very mission and values that Barnstable Recreation promotes—community, inclusion, education, fun, health & wellness, and connection.

The Learn to Skate program is far more than a basic introduction to ice sports. It provides children and adults alike with essential skating skills that promote safety, build confidence, and foster a lifelong appreciation for physical activity. These benefits extend beyond just hockey or figure skating—they create a more well-rounded, inclusive, and capable community of ice users.

Eliminating this program to allocate ice time to a private elite hockey team sends a discouraging message: that exclusivity and profit are being prioritized over accessibility and public enrichment. This decision undermines equitable access to recreational opportunities and alienates families who rely on public programs for skill development and affordable activity.

I urge you to reconsider this choice and work to preserve the Learn to Skate program at HYCC. Its loss would not only affect those currently enrolled, but would also diminish the legacy and future of community skating in Barnstable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Raquel

Sent from my iPhone