

Correspondence from Dave Armstrong

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mailbox, Office of the Mayor](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 1](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 2](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 3](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 4](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 5](#); [LIST - Office of Ward 6](#)
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Subject: Staff Report RCC-01-23
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City Clerk
City of Burlington
Please distribute this to all committee members and staff

Dear Mayor, Members of Council:

Re: Staff Report RCC-01-23

The Burlington Eagles Hockey Club has been providing organized hockey programming in the city of Burlington for more than 30 years. Our partnership with the city is essential to our continued success in meeting a growing demand by families in Burlington. We were not consulted in the preparation of this report but we would like to have our input on the record.

Our club provides the programming for organized hockey for school aged children from the ages of 6 to 17. It is geared to players who want to make the sport of hockey a priority and play with players at the same or similar level, they are not elite, our role is their development as hockey players and individuals.

The demand for our programming has been steadily increasing in recent years, in 2022 we had 950 registrations for 630 spots (limited by ice availability). Throughout the pandemic our volunteer board set the standard for keeping players on the ice, while complying with all of the constantly changing restrictions. Our return to skate protocols were adopted by the OMHA and used throughout the province. During 2020,2021 and 2022 we fulfilled our obligation to the city with our traditional ice allocation and accepted rental opportunities for any additional ice that was not used by other organizations.

We continue to receive less ice and less favourable ice times from the city. Our school age children are forced to practice as early as 6:00 am and as late as 11:00 pm on school nights. The primetime ice that we do get has to be used for our home games to allow travel time for the visiting teams. Staff has suggested that we use private ice and we have done so. This is not optimal for a number of reasons but primarily it costs more resulting in increased fees, we are a not for profit organization so our revenue has to be neutral with our expenses.

The report refers to a "Vision to Focus Alignment" that emphasizes more citizen engagement and

promotes customer centric services ! As the report suggests, a significant amount of city programming is not well supported and participation is low. We constantly see empty rinks or near empty rinks during prime time when we could rent the ice and the city would get the revenue. It is frustrating to see increasing demand but a reduction in what we can supply. We will be forced to reduce our number of teams next year if the situation does not change, a growing number of Burlington children will not have the opportunity to play organized hockey.

We were not consulted in the preparation of the “Framework for Recreation” but feel that it fails to properly recognize our role in the community;

- our participants are school age citizens of Burlington
- they have chosen to play organized hockey, they are not elite
- the OMHA provides guidelines on when we can play games
- city restrictions effectively reduce the availability of our programming to many children who want to participate
- we host approximately 37 visiting teams and their families each week during the hockey season that support our local businesses

I appreciate the opportunity to make this submission, please include it into the public record.

Yours very sincerely

Dave Armstrong
President
The Burlington Eagles