

## Madalyn Letellier

---

**From:** Melissa Gillespie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; All City Council; Naima Sait; Jake Wilson; [REDACTED]  
Wilfred Mbah; Willie Burnley, Jr.  
**Cc:** Jeremy Gillespie  
**Subject:** Please Ensure Winter Ice at Founders Rink

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Somerville City Council Members,

My name is Melissa Gillespie, and my family has been involved with Somerville Youth Hockey for four years. I also skate with the Women's Learn to Play program with Somerville.

I'm writing to urge you to prioritize year-round access to Founders Rink by ensuring that there is ice from November through mid-March.

Tonight, you're voting on funding that affects Founders Rink. I respectfully ask that you withhold support for this funding unless the Administration commits to removing the flooring each year by November 1, storing it properly, and reinstalling it after March 15 so the rink can be used for winter ice.

If all families and constituents really matter, please vote **no** on this funding until there is a clear, committed plan from the Administration that meets the needs of the skating and hockey community in addition to the larger community, not taking away from our community to meet the needs of another. This is incredibly important to families like mine. Our community depends on consistent access to ice time, and we truly cannot understand why taking Founders Rink away from our youth hockey and skating community is even a discussion on the table.

Sincerely,

Melissa and Jeremy Gillespie, Ward 5

[REDACTED], Somerville, MA 02145

## Madalyn Letellier

---

**From:** Nicole Mueller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:45 PM  
**To:** All City Council; Public Comments  
**Subject:** Founders Rink- Action needed tonight!

My name is Nicole Mueller and Somerville has been my home for +20 years. My family has been involved with youth hockey and learning to skate for ~6 years at the Somerville rinks. We are thankful for your support last meeting as we all work together to find a solution to maximize the space for the community.

I am asking you to prioritize **year-round** use of Founders rink by having a **winter ice sheet** (November-mid March). My son plays hockey, but the use of the rink is much larger. This is where families and the community gather in the difficult winter months. It makes little sense to commit to the plan as is and leave this resource empty in the winter months. The rink hosts opportunities for women/girls to learn to skate (I plan to join the mom's team this upcoming year) and families to get out of the house on winter weekends together.

It is an unique asset and I ask that you withhold your support for this appropriation until you have an assurance from the Administration that they plan and budget for taking up the flooring each November 1, store it, and put it back down after March 15? Though initial estimates are substantial, I ask that you withhold your vote until a more thought out plan can be made that is not permanent, as suggested by the Mayor. We can offer some hockey players for manual labor (said only half joking)!

Thank you for your continued consideration and support- you are the voice of the people and the permanent flooring plan does not have full community support.

Sincerely,

Nicole Mueller

## Madalyn Letellier

---

**From:** Sarah Lundblad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:51 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] JT Scott; Matthew McLaughlin;  
[REDACTED] All City Council; Public Comments  
**Subject:** Founders Rink

Hello, Members of the City Council,

My name is Sarah Robinson Lundblad. My son is a 4th grader at Argenziano who has been playing hockey and benefitting from our amazing Somerville hockey community for 6 years. I am asking you to prioritize **year-round** use of Founders rink by having a **winter ice sheet** (November-mid March). Without Founders Rink, we have noticed that competition for ice time squeezes out teams from important practices where they need to grow hockey and teamwork skills. This season was challenging for all the cancelled and moved practices, and my son missed out on that skill building and healthy physical activity. Please please recognize how important ice hockey and ice time is to our hockey kids and this amazing community of SYHA families and coaches. Will you withhold your support for this appropriation until you have an assurance from the Administration that they plan and budget for taking up the flooring each November 1, store it, and put it back down after March 15?

Sincerely,  
Sarah Robinson Lundblad

Sarah Robinson  
[REDACTED]

## Madalyn Letellier

---

**From:** Ann Madden [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:35 PM  
**To:** All City Council; Public Comments  
**Subject:** Founders Rink

My name is Ann Cournane and my family is part of the Somerville youth hockey community. I am asking you to prioritize **year-round** use of Founders rink by having a **winter ice sheet** (November-mid March). PLEASE withhold your support for this appropriation until you have an assurance from the Administration that they will put an ice sheet on in the winter.

Thank you,  
Ann Cournane  
Ward 2