



January 30, 2019

Last week we sounded an alarm as unexpected word reached us that **the Mayor was considering pulling out of the City's \$25 million commitment** for a new, expanded rink facility. The bigger facility would allow thousands more DC children to take part in our signature, popular Kids On Ice® skating and enrichment programs. The FDIA board already has started to fulfill its pledge to raise an additional \$5 million for this important community project.

BUT NOW IT IS TRULY TIME TO SAVE OUR RINK!

Mayor Muriel Bowser has formally asked the City Council to de-fund the FDIA new rink project.

Unless a majority (7) of the Council votes to reject her re-programming request, Fort Dupont Ice Arena will lose the money — and we'll never get it back.

We need all rink supporters to email all Councilmembers immediately and ask them to support Councilmember Gray's effort to restore the rink's hard won funds.

We are frustrated and disappointed by this sudden turn of events.

- The Mayor and City Administrator never contacted the rink to discuss this matter.
- The Mayor told the Council: "No projects will be negatively impacted as a result of this reprogramming. All reprogrammed projects are either complete, deprioritized, or will be proposed for new funding in the FY 2020-2025 Capital Improvements Plan." That is simply not true! **Our project will be negatively affected, and we understand only our project will not be re-funded.**
- Nearly half of FDIA's skaters live in Wards 7 and 8. But not only is expanding and improving our facility no longer a priority for the Mayor, *we have learned that some City officials want to abandon DC's commitment to FDIA and possibly relocate the rink entirely!* We can't let that happen to Ward 7 and 8 residents, who benefit directly from the rink's proximity and take pride in hosting such a welcoming, diverse, and uplifting community institution.

FDIA's staff and board of directors have worked for years with DC officials to make the new, expanded rink a reality in the near future. As the City knows, we launched our Capital Campaign last year to raise the \$5 million we committed to the cost-sharing project.

Don't let the City BREAK ITS PROMISE ... to the next 20,000 kids who would come through the doors of a new rink; to the thousands of current Kids On Ice® program participants and their families; to the DC hockey clubs that call FDIA "home ice;" and to Wards 7 and 8.

Our supporters, program participants, and community neighbors must let the City Council know that the Mayor's reprogramming request is just plain wrong!

Ward 7 Councilmember Vincent Gray will introduce a Disapproval Resolution to reject Mayor Bowser's proposal to stop the rink expansion project in its tracks. **Please send an email to all City Councilmembers (except Vincent Gray) to support Councilmember Gray's resolution**

to reject the Mayor's reprogramming request. Below is a sample email message to councilmembers. And, if you haven't already, please [click here to sign the SAVE OUR RINK petition](#), and then share with your DC networks!

Thank you for your continued support of FDIA's Kids On Ice® skating and enrichment programs! We are grateful for all you do to make our rink the community treasure it is.