



SOUTH JERSEY ICE & ATHLETIC CENTER

The South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center

Press Release for Immediate Publication

Local Non-Profit Group Forms to Build a New Ice Rink & Athletic Center

Atlantic City, January 5th, 2023— After several years of continued uncertainty, a group of committed and involved community members, led by Stockton University Ice Hockey Alumni, have formed a separate nonprofit association with the mission to design, build, and operate, the future South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center (SJIAC).

With multiple \$3 Billion dollar proposals to purchase and develop Bader Field now on the table, the fate of the Atlantic City Skatezone still remains uncertain. The SJIAC association proposes that a small percentage of the proceeds of the sale of Bader Field, rightfully, go toward the building of a new ice rink and athletic center for the hard-working families of South Jersey.

“We highly encourage and strongly support a \$3 Billion dollar investment in Atlantic City, but no plan for the sale of Bader Field should be approved by Atlantic City or the State of New Jersey without a subsequent plan to replace our ice rink,” said SJIAC President Alan Rhoads. *“We offer a reasonable and fair solution to their problem. It’s a win-win for everyone.”* he added.

“As one of the oldest USFSA sanctioned figure skating clubs in the United States, we pride ourselves on our long-standing history. Our skaters and members of the community would all benefit from a new state-of-the-art ice rink and athletic facility owned and operated by a competent and responsible entity. The potential for our children of both Atlantic and Cape May Counties, and really all of South Jersey, has no boundaries,” said Amy Vanrell, Vice President of the Atlantic City Figure Skating Club and Board Member of the SJIAC.

One of the groups first goals include establishing a relationship and line of communication with any and all potential developers. *“We’re hopeful and optimistic that they view us as the friends and allies that we are,”* added SJIAC Co-President Jim O’Donnell. *“Our proposal intends to gain widespread support from all over the broader South Jersey region. We plan to provide the support that is needed to make history and complete the Bader Field deal.”*

The next steps of the SJIAC include announcing fundraising goals and events, adding key members to their Board of Directors, and securing one of the four site locations that are being considered. For more information the SJIAC encourages anyone interested to visit their website at:

www.SJIAC.org

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