



South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center Association

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NJ Nonprofit Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from the South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center Association Regarding Comments by Michael Binder of DEEM Enterprises, LLC

April 9th, 2025, Atlantic County, NJ— The South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center Association (SJIAC) is compelled to respond to recent public statements made by Michael Binder—partner in DEEM Enterprises, LLC—regarding the status and future of the Atlantic City Skatezone.

In video clips recently circulated online, Mr. Binder astonishingly and inaccurately suggested that the Skatezone Ice Rink is no longer operational. This is unequivocally false. The Skatezone remains open and active, serving youth and adult athletes, families, and skating enthusiasts from across the South Jersey region. While not without its challenges, the facility continues to be a vital community hub for healthy recreation, team sports, and personal development.

More concerning, however, are Mr. Binder's remarks that reflect DEEM's intention to **demolish the Skatezone** as part of their proposed development of Bader Field. This approach, which disregards the established needs of the regional ice sports community, would represent a serious loss—not just for Atlantic City, but for South Jersey as a whole.

The ideal and forward-thinking solution is clear: **If DEEM Enterprises moves forward with the Bader Field project, it should be accompanied by a robust Community Benefit Agreement that includes the replacement and relocation of the Skatezone Ice Rink.** The South Jersey Ice & Athletic Center Association stands ready, willing, and able to work collaboratively with DEEM, local and state officials, and community stakeholders to ensure a win-win outcome for all involved.

We are committed to turning this moment into an opportunity—one where thoughtful development coexists with public good. By working together, we can preserve ice sports in Atlantic County while supporting responsible investment in the city's future.

We invite DEEM Enterprises and government leaders to **engage in a constructive dialogue with us.**

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