

Memorandum



DATE January 8, 2026

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Government Efficiency

SUBJECT **Future Operations of the Southern Skates Roller Rink**

Dallas Park and Recreation Department (PKR) is providing this status update regarding the future operation and management of Southern Skates Roller Rink.

Southern Skates Roller Rink is a City-owned recreational facility located in Southern Dallas at 2939 E. Ledbetter, Dallas 75216. Southern Skates has been owned, operated, and managed by PKR since 2005. The facility functions as a community skating destination offering public skating sessions, teen and adult programming, skating lessons, birthday parties, field trips, and private event rentals. PKR remains committed to ensuring that Southern Skates continues to operate as a roller skating rink and community destination.

As part of the FY 2025–26 budget adjustment process, Southern Skates transitioned to a significantly reduced staffing structure, decreasing the budget allocation by \$(198,143). In response, and consistent with efforts to align operations with core departmental services, PKR initiated a review of alternative operating models to support operational efficiency, consistent maintenance, and long-term sustainability of the facility. Based on this review, PKR is proceeding with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a qualified operator with experience in roller rink and entertainment facility operations. Under this approach, the City will retain ownership and oversight of the facility, while the selected operator will assume responsibility for day-to-day operations and maintenance in accordance with City standards.

The RFP will require that Southern Skates remain an active roller skating facility serving the surrounding community.

The anticipated timeline for the RFP process is as follows:

- January 30, 2026: Finalize the RFP document and submit to the Office of Procurement Services (OPS) for review and release.
- February 2, 2026: Collaborate with OPS on outreach and engagement to strengthen competition.
- By April 30, 2026: Review proposals, conduct interviews, and complete the evaluation and scoring process.
- By June 30, 2026: Identify a recommended operator in advance of FY 2026–27.
- October 1, 2026: Selected operator assumes full operational responsibility.

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PKR will continue to provide updates as the RFP process progresses and will return to City Council for any required approvals. If additional information is needed, staff is available to respond to questions.

Thank you,



John D. Jenkins, Director
Dallas Park and Recreation

c: Crystal R. Ross, Senior Deputy Director
Ryan O' Connor, Deputy Director
Renee Johnson, Deputy Director