



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: October 8, 2014
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**MINER, VALESKY, MAGNARELLI
REOPEN MEACHEM ICE RINK**

*After Four Months of Work, Construction of an Ice Mat Was Completed
In Time For Hockey Season to Begin*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner, Senator David J. Valesky, and Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli today stood at Meachem Ice Rink to formally reopen it after four months of reconstruction made possible by state funding. As part of their announcement, the leaders took part in a “puck drop” to open the inaugural practice of the Onondaga Thunder on the new ice.

“Meachem Rink provides a home to two youth hockey leagues, the Corcoran High School team, and over 24,000 skaters each year,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “Reopening this rink provides an important service to the residents of the City of Syracuse. It was made possible by the effort of our state delegation securing the funds and the hard work of our Parks Department and engineering staff who made this happen both on time and on budget.”

"This project was important to so many kids and families who use the ice rink, and I am happy to have been able to direct state funds to complete it. Meachem is a true asset, and a great example of what can be accomplished when we work together to solve a problem," said **Senator David J. Valesky**.

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli said, “I commend the Mayor and the Department of Parks and Rec for turning this project around as fast as they did. Hockey is an important part of the quality of life for many residents of the Valley, as well as the other youth leagues who play at Meachem. Working together with my colleague Senator Valesky, it shows that “teamwork” is what it took ‘off the ice’, as well as, ‘on the ice’ to achieve our goal!”

“Congratulations to the Parks Department and other City employees for getting this project completed on schedule,” said **Third District Common Councilor Bob Dougherty**. “The real



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winners are the kids and adults who use the rink. Thanks also to Senator Dave Valesky and Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli for securing the necessary funds.”

Earlier this year, Meachem Ice Rink was shuttered as a result of mechanical problems, including pipe corrosion, with its cooling system. In June, it was announced that Senator Valesky had secured \$350,000 and Assemblyman Magnarelli secured \$115,000 in New York State capital funds for the repair of the rink. Since then, a new ice mat was installed and the rink will now open for hockey season.

Meachem rink was opened in 1973 on a site where Valley neighbors had erected a makeshift ice rink. The facility is home to Valley Youth Hockey and the Onondaga Thunder youth hockey teams, the Syracuse Learn to Skate program, and the Corcoran High School hockey team. It is the most used skating rink in the City of Syracuse.

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