

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION  
CONGRATULATING THE STAMFORD (SHARKS) YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
ON ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, the Stamford Youth Hockey Association is one of the oldest youth hockey programs in the Tri-State area, established fifty years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, creation of the Stamford Youth Hockey Association was spearheaded by a small group of Stamford parents and hockey enthusiasts who recognized the need for a youth hockey league and the opportunity that a newly constructed municipal rink offered; and

**WHEREAS**, In the fall of 1973, the Board of Recreation, led by Superintendent Bruno Giordano announced that it was forming a youth hockey association, and on October 23, 1973, during its first organizational meeting, the Stamford Youth Hockey Association was formed with the following board members: James Caterbone, Jr., President; Pete Pinto, Sr., Vice President; Tom Hanley, Treasurer, and Harold Leavett, Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, the league opened their first year of inaugural play during the 1973 holiday season with membership of almost 300 players and 12 teams from the ages of 7 through 14 at the recently constructed Terry Conners Ice Rink with hundreds in attendance and by the next season, the hockey league was operating on a self-sufficient basis with the aid of volunteer leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1983, the Stamford Youth Hockey Association created and continues to sponsor the Swedish Exchange Program - a true cultural exchange program built around the love of the hockey; and

**WHEREAS**, the program has grown to offer boys and girls a full spectrum of opportunities beginning at age 4 and lasting through age 19, with the Tiger Sharks/Learn to Play program, progressing into local House Leagues, and competitive Travel programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stamford Youth Hockey Association, incorporated as a 501(c)(3), is one of the few organizations to provide need-based scholarships regardless of playing ability and offers scholarships to youth who otherwise might not be able to afford to play the sport of hockey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stamford Youth Hockey Association's mission statement is to teach and promote the fundamental skills needed to play developmental and competitive hockey among our Stamford youth in a positive, fun, safe and nurturing environment while promoting an atmosphere where friendships develop among families, coaches and players.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives that it congratulates the Stamford Youth Hockey Association on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and thanks it for its service to the Stamford community.

*Approved by the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023*

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Jeff Curtis, President

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Megan Cottrell, Clerk