

**From:** [Mike DeBoor](#)  
**To:** [MetroCouncilClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Metro Council Budget Meeting - Public Hearing - March 4, 2019  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 11:29:27 AM

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Please include the follow to the transcripts/notes from last night meetings.

Mike DeBoor - Head Coach of the Lakeside Swim Team, I have coached Lakeside and worked at the Mary T Meagher Aquatic Facility since 1988.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

I cannot thank the City of Louisville for providing this facility, the impact has been enormous in allowing Lakeside to achieve unprecedented success. While developing 10 USA Olympians, hundreds of collegiate athletes and 90 years of providing competitive swimming to the metro area. The number of lives the facility and program have impacted is well over ten-thousand local young athletes.

MTM is much more than a team's place to practice - it is the sole public provider for water safety training, learn to swim, life guard training and overall aquatic development of our young people and community as a whole. We cannot ignore the importance of drowning prevention and water safety - Since 1999, an average of more than 815 children ages 14 and under have died as a result of unintentional drowning each year. And since 2001, an average of more than 3,700 children sustained nonfatal near drowning-related injuries each year. As a coach and community member I think we must be able to provide our community with the tools to prevent water related accidents - currently our only source is the MTM Aquatic Facility.

The use and impact of MTM extends beyond just swim practice, with:

- Over 2100 visiting families per year for hosted meets and events
- Over 1000 other visitors for special facility events
- The Navy, Army, Airforce, Coast Guard, LMPD, EMS, Louisville Fire Department all do their training there.
- Offers the only public hot pool therapy facility in the city.
- Unique groups such as tri-athletes, Masters, scuba and kayak

training

- The only public lap swim, rec swim, swim lessons and Infant Survival are taught here.
- The following special Groups currently use the facility:
  - Special Olympics
  - Kentucky School for the Blind
  - Boys & Girls Haven
  - Saint Joseph Children's Home
  - Dreams with Wings
  - Adaptive & Inclusive Recreation
  - Camp Quality
  - JCPS and private schools
  - Oldham County
  - The Seminary
  - Bellarmine University
  - Metro Parks Swim Team

I realize this is not an all-inclusive list, however, it shows the importance and impact the facility has on our community. With the large majority of these groups producing direct and in-direct revenue to the City - the facility is a huge asset and one that could be further developed.

Being the only public indoor swimming facility in the metro area makes the Mary T Meagher Facility unique - there are no other options for aquatics or water safety instruction. What would we do without this facility?

I urge you to search for other options - increase alcohol tax, tobacco tax, vaping product tax, for that matter junk food tax - areas that are made by choice, versus areas beneficial to our community - look for revenue versus reducing our City's services and public safety force.

#### **Lakeside & Community**

- Over 4,500 local swimmers have participated with Lakeside Swim Team since 2000.
- Approximately \$350,000 in local Hotel revenue each year by Teams attending Lakeside hosted meets.
- Approximately 2100 visiting families to Louisville for Lakeside hosted meets

each year - equating to at least 4200 people shopping, eating meals and supporting the local economy - approximately 12-14 days of visitors.

- 2016 Lakeside inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Over 18 years of Volunteer Support to Special Olympics Swimming Championships.
- Over 325 Athletes have graduated and gone on to attend College since 2001 - 110 the past 5 years
- Over 8 years of Dare to Care Food Drive support.
- 2013, 2014, 2015 Go for Gold Program - Provided & Funded 240 Title I students, each year, from 8 local schools, a one day clinic with 5 Olympians - suits and goggles provided if needed.
- 2014-2016 Elvis Initiative - Provided & Funded Elvis Burrows, a minority Olympian, former Lakeside swimmer, and four instructors to 35 Title I children for learn-to-swim lessons, 3 one-month sessions - suits, bags and warm-ups provided.
- Operating as a Non-Profit Program since 1980 and is not part of the private Lakeside Swim Club. Current membership is less than 40% members of the private Lakeside Swim Club.

#### **Lakeside & Mary T Meagher Aquatic Center**

- Primary force in initial covering of Crescent Hill Facility in 1980-81.
- Purchased new lane lines for the facility - in lieu of rate increase.
- Refurbished and stabilized all starting blocks at the facility, at no cost to the City.
- Donated a \$5,000 Multi Station Cable/Weight System.
- Purchased dumbbells and medicine balls that enhance the weight room facility.
- 5 Lakeside Full-time Staff Certified as Lifeguards to assist MTM.
- Provide the scoreboard and timing system for a number of High School Regional Championships and Special Olympics championships.
- Over \$900,000 in rent to MTM the past 5 years.

#### **Lakeside Competitive Swimming**

- Twice named a USA Swimming Podium Club - only 10 programs ever awarded this distinction
- Named a USA Swimming Gold Medal Club of Excellence each year 2004 through 2016 & 2018.
- Produced 10 USA Olympians, with one each recently in 2004, 2008 & 2012
- Placed swimmers on 25 different USA National Teams, winning 31 International Medals since 2001
- 18-Under USA National Champions twice since 2000
- 7 swimmers named to USA National Junior Team since 2005
- 32 USA Olympic Trial Qualifiers since 2000
- Over 185 USA Scholastic All-Americans since 2000
- 12 time USA Swimming Sectional Team Champions
- 146 KHSAA Individual Champions since 2000.
- Head Coach selected to Coach 11 USA International Teams and 7 USA National

## **Camps.**

The most successful youth Sports group in the Region and City, no other single youth program is producing the young people that are developed at MTM and the Lakeside Swim Team.

Competitive swimming is most likely the most successful sport Louisville produces – The University of Louisville is a National Top 10 Program, as well as produced countless International Team USA Members, the youth teams at the University and private Blairwood Club have produced Nationally ranked athletes as well, all combined with Lakeside and MTM to be our City's most successful sport at a National, International and Olympic Level.

MTM is also currently serving Masters Swimming, City of Louisville Youth Swimming (Hammerheads), LMPD, Navy Seals, Army Special Forces, Navy Special Forces, Louisville EMS, Louisville FD, Bellarmine University, JCPS, Infant Survival, scuba diving, kayaking, 3 Tri-Athlete Groups, as well as the only public lap swimming, water aerobics, swim lessons and infant lessons in the City.

Does Lakeside Swim Team, the MTM Facility and the sport of swimming not fulfill most if not all of the following?

The Parks & Recreation Team Values are:

- Integrity and Transparency\*
- Trust and Respect for All
- Teamwork and Partnerships Produce Winners\*
- Improvement is Our Lifeblood\*
- Positive People Living to Full Potential\*
- Sense of Urgency\*
- Sense of Play\*
- Stewardship\*

## **The Louisville Metro's Purpose, Vision and Mission**

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... This is why we exist

### ***PURPOSE***

Metro government was created to serve the people of Jefferson county, not our elected officials. As Mayor, I will insure all citizens receive fair, ethical, and equal treatment.

...This is what we want for our city

### ***VISION***

“Louisville is a city of lifelong learning and great jobs, wellness, and compassion”

...This is how we'll achieve our vision

### ***MISSION***

Louisville Metro Government is the catalyst for creating a world-class city that provides its citizens with safe and vibrant neighborhoods, great jobs, a strong system of education and innovation, and a high quality of life.

**Community Centers & Athletics**

- Provides a wide variety of neighborhood-based recreation services, in support of the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Movement.\*