



City of Hartford

HARTFORD PARKS &
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of recommendation for Burbach Aquatic Incorporated (BAI). The City of Hartford has a long standing aquatic tradition which goes back to the 1950's, when the Community had the foresight to build, at that time a "state of the art" outdoor eight lane, 50 meter pool. The pool, mechanical/filtration system, and the bathhouse were at the top of the pool industry standard for that time.

The condition of the outdoor pool had reached a critical point by 2010 and decisions needed to be made on its future. The old pool was showing its age with the concrete structure failing, the bathhouse dated, and ongoing mechanical and electrical system problems. Staff knew it would require in-depth research, community education and diligent planning to propose a new outdoor aquatic center in Hartford. A pool consultant having strong municipal experience would be needed.

BAI was one of three pool consultants considered by the City for interview and in January of 2013 an interview team recommended BAI to evaluate the existing facility and consider future options. The professionalism and experience in municipal pool construction were evident. BAI provides a range of services and that allowed the City to consider options as we entered into Phase I - Feasibility/Marketing. Hartford used three of the BAI service options in Phase I including Technical Evaluation of the existing pool/bathhouse, New Concept Design and Referendum Support. When it became evident that the Pool Committee would be proposing a new aquatic center for replacement, a funding mechanism to pay for a new outdoor aquatic center needed to be considered and developed. The City Council was adamant that any increase in property taxes for a new aquatic center would need to go to a referendum vote. The City used BAI Referendum Support Services to educate the public on this aquatic center project. BAI hosted three open house sessions as part of this process. Staff firmly believes with BAI's help that the referendum not only passed, but passed with overwhelming support - 81% in favor of the project. The vote of support launched the project into Phase II - Design and Development and Phase III - Construction Management services with BAI. Throughout Phase I and II, BAI worked not only with city staff but also with an appointed citizen Pool Committee. The Committee found that BAI offered a community minded approach in researching and recommending the new facility design and plans. The BAI team carefully listened to everyone's thoughts and ideas, getting a complete understanding of the community's past and its vision for the future. As engineer, designer and construction manager the BAI team offers a complete and quality package of pool consulting service. In each Phase of work I have found that the BAI team has provided the City with the expertise and professionalism that was expected and that continues at this time as the project is six months into construction and on schedule to open on the established timeline of construction.

The City of Hartford looks forward to having continued project success with Burbach Aquatics as we near the opening of our new and once again, "state of the art" outdoor aquatic center. I personally have found it a pleasure to work with Mr. Burbach and the BAI team. If you wish to discuss any of these items please give me a call at (262) 670-3730.

Sincerely,

Mike Hermann
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Hartford