



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT Item 6 May 24, 2022 Friends of Library  
**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:14:30 AM

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Council Members:

I know the Friends do great work for our library. I know they have always used city property for their book sales at no charge. I've been told they can bring in about \$11,000 at these sales and that money goes to our Los Altos library. That's clearly a benefit to the city.

In January the Town Crier requested a fee reduction for renting the Garden House for an event. That request was withdrawn, but it wasn't obvious to me why the city would grant it.

My concern about waiving or reducing fees for any person or organization is that the 2008 Fee Waiver Policy is no policy at all. It allows the city manager or the council to make a subjective decision on whether to grant requests. This could lead to all kinds of problems if you say yes to one and no to others.

The city needs objective standards for making these decisions. Our financial situation is not great. We're paying off a \$10M loan for the community center. Regardless of whether or not people pay to rent space – at any city property – we still have to pay staff and pay for utilities.

I hope you will move to create an objective fee waiver policy.

Thank you,

Pat Marriott

**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#); [Gabriel Engeland](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender]Consent Calendar City Council meeting May 24 Item #6  
**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 4:20:07 PM

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Dear City Council

I would like to request that you pull item #6 "Rental Fee Waiver" from the Consent Calendar and have it as a discussion item.

While the Friends of the Library do a good job, you have already established a fee structure for rentals at the new Community Center which staff worked on diligently and Council approved. The city has to pay back the ten million dollar loan, pay staff, do the upkeep on the facility which all costs a lot of money. I believe that no one should have their fees waived because the expense of running the Community Center then falls on others to pay. It does not allow for the rooms to be rented to other interested parties who might want to pay to use the rooms that the Friends are requesting for four days at a time, three or four times a year. It also sets a precedent that in the future the fees will always be waived for the book sales. It does not allow for cost recovery and puts the burden on the taxpayers. The city has only 16% of its reserves while they have a policy of 20% reserves. The City has a twenty two million dollar shortfall on the CIP projects, with urgent needs (for example) to provide hot water and an upgraded electric panel at Grant Park. The roof at the firehouse is now leaking. I do not believe the City is in a position to give away free space and ignore cost recovery, or put the cost of operating the facility on other users

There are many non profit organizations in Los Altos that do good things for the community. LACF, the Rotary Club, The Assistance League of Los Altos and many other organizations sponsor events like the Wine and Cheese Festival, the Art Festival, give scholarships, and feed people, provide rent assistance, provide mental health opportunities and more. If you grant a fee waiver other non profits could then expect to have free rental space at the Community Center based on their good works that benefit the community. The Friends of the Library are no more or less worthy than other non profits who provide services to Los Altos. The Friends of the Library have close to a million dollars in the bank, so they certainly can afford to pay a rental fee. It is obvious that they do not donate 100% of their revenue to the Library. The Friends of the Library in all other towns pay rental fees.

You might want to consider that instead of paying \$11,040 that the Friends pay half. (\$5520) That would allow the City to have some cost recovery and be more fair to the other residents who would need to pick up the slack or forgo other needed services from the city.

I am looking for a fair and balanced policy to be put in place before any fees are waived or decreased, and that the public has a chance to participate at a public hearing.

Sincerely

Roberta Phillips



**From:** [Roberta Phillips](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fee Waiver Friends of the Library/ Council meeting May24,2022  
**Date:** Sunday, May 22, 2022 2:03:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [To City Council \(1\).docx](#)

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Dear City Council

Jim Jolly is my neighbor and does not have his own computer.

He asked If I would email this letter to you on his behalf. Please see attached letter from him.

Thanks

Roberta Phillips



To: Los Altos City Council

From: Jim Jolly

Subject: Waiver of Fees for Community Center Use

Date: May 22, 2022

The City Council has established a fee schedule for use of our new Community Center by private person/organizations. I understand that these fees have been discounted for use by non-profit organizations.

The Council is now considering a request from the Friends of the Library to waive the discounted fee for their upcoming Book Sale. I am opposed to this and request that you deny their request. Please adhere to your already approved schedule so that all non-profit organization users who request use of this City owned property are treated equally.

Thank you.

Jim Jolly

Panchita Way