Council Meeting of
March 12, 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL #1 TO ITEM 10C

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL #1 TO COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 10C

Correspondence was received after the item was prepared and distributed is attached herewith for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

By Michelle G. Ramirez
Michelle G. Ramirez
Community Development Director

CONCUR:

Aram Chaparyan
Aram Chaparyan
City Manager

Attachment:

A) Public Correspondence

#1
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

10C

Aoki, Denise

Subject: City Council Meeting - March 12, 2024 - Supplemental for Item 10C

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:15 AM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@torranceca.gov>; La Rock, John <JLaRock@TorranceCA.Gov>
Subject: PICKLEBALL ORDINANCE

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

To: Torrance City Counsel, Honorable Mayor George Chen, Community Services Director,

We think the 500 feet fixed distance is too restrictive. It may be a good starting point to review a Pickleball installation but it does not leave room for current or future types of site mitigation.

A number of Sound proofing studies state that a minimum distance of 500 feet is required to reduce the sound of pickleball at or below a 50db level. The noise produced (db) mixes with the general soundscape of a neighborhood. 50db is considered equivalent to a whisper. The majority of the investigation focused on studies published by the manufacturers of sound proofing materials. We think the manufacturers choice of a 500 feet restriction may have some bias and do not address the sound issues as a whole.

Like the City Counsel, we are not opposed to having an ordinance to help control noise and traffic. We too want to provide a heathy environment for all, players and residence. If pickleball must be singled out, we think the ordinance should be flexibility enough to allow sites under 500 feet to be considered for mitigation by various means. Such as trial test periods, restricted hours, current and future noise reduction materials and products as outlined below with the latest USAP release: **USA Pickleball Announces Quiet Category for Pickleball Products document.**

Thank you for your time and effort it takes to address these issues.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Debbie Martin
USA Pickleball Ambassadors, Torrance
[redacted]

September 25, 2023/[illegible]
USA Pickleball Announces Quiet Category for Pickleball Products

PHOENIX – [illegible] the National Governing Body for the sport of pickleball in the U.S., announced today the launch of its Quiet Category for pickleball products, a revolutionary initiative that aims to reduce the sport's sound output during recreational play. As pickleball continues to grow in popularity and new outdoor courts open, USA Pickleball has invested in the research and creation of equipment and solutions to enable more communities the opportunity to enjoy the sport. The launch of this Quiet Category will recognize pickleball products that reduce acoustic output during play without negatively impacting performance. In addition to this effort, USA Pickleball is expanding its Facilities Development program to further support noise-reduction solutions for potentially sound-sensitive pickleball venues.
"We are excited to introduce the new Quiet Category for pickleball equipment and related initiatives as a pivotal step in the evolution of pickleball," said **Mike Nealy, USA Pickleball Chief Executive Officer**. "With the sport's growth, addressing noise concerns is essential to maintain a positive relationship between residential communities and facility operators. We are continuing to develop guidance and resources that offer short- and long-term solutions that continue to enhance the sport. By working together with manufacturers and the entire industry, we can develop quieter options that benefit everyone."
USA Pickleball's Quiet Category for equipment will promote products that deliver essentially 50 percent or less of the acoustic footprint of equipment commonly sourced and used in community parks. Over the past 15 months, USA Pickleball has researched and studied the acoustic output within the sport, making considerable investments to lead the application of resulting data. Collaborating with acoustic experts, USA Pickleball has gained an understanding and ability to address the challenges posed by noise pollution in pickleball facilities in sensitive locations.

The Quiet Category will include specific guidance to manufacturers with thresholds that significantly reduce acoustic propagation during play. USA Pickleball will provide test fixture requirements and procedures to manufacturers during development, specification relief to enable manufacturers to creatively use new materials and configurations while preserving the nature of the game, and ongoing collaboration and guidance to several global brands in sporting goods. With the mission to encourage manufacturers to prioritize innovation in creating quieter products, the Quiet Category will encompass a wide range of products including paddles, balls, paddle covers, and noise mitigation screens for pickleball courts. USA Pickleball is also launching an incentive program for manufacturers to deliver noise-reduced solutions in the Competition-Certified Category.

To address noise concerns in local residential communities, and enhance the overall experience for players, USA Pickleball will expand its site design, evaluation, and acoustic mitigation services within its Facilities Development program. These services engage key principles throughout the development process, including greenfield builds, court conversions, and expansions, to assess key variables that affect the acoustic propagation.

There have been several breakthroughs in new products that not only provide options for facilities designers, but address concerns of weight, cost, and attenuation levels that meet local ordinances and codes. In addition to identifying target thresholds, USA Pickleball is currently engaged in referrals to new sites for existing solutions through collaborations with stakeholders. Future initiatives include facilitating test installations, conducting uniform lab tests for accurate benchmarking, and integrating solutions when running simulations on facilities in planning/development.

"Due to the unprecedented levels of growth we are seeing in pickleball across the country, communities are now being faced with pressure to provide places to play. This overwhelming demand has driven municipalities and HOAs with limited resources to seek support in meeting these needs," said **Carl Schmits, USA Pickleball Managing Director of Facilities Development and Equipment Standards**. "We have spoken with hundreds of facilities and concerned stakeholders over the last 15 months, and gathered considerable data related to this topic. We're now well-equipped and ready to launch this program."

USA Pickleball plans to continue to invest in its acoustic research and programs, including advancing the caliber of remote and on-site evaluations, materials guidance to manufacturers, and providing input to municipalities for evolving codes and ordinances. More information about USA Pickleball's acoustic programs will be announced in the coming months.

-----Original Message-----
From: helene tillotson <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 6:49 AM
To: Council Meeting Public Comment <CouncilMeetingPublicComment@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Pickleball

[You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

I'm a senior who loves pickleball and it is very frustrating to see cities like Carson and Long Beach building pickleball courts and Torrance and redondo do pretty much nothing. Pickleball is in high demand especially by seniors. Thank you

Aoki, Denise

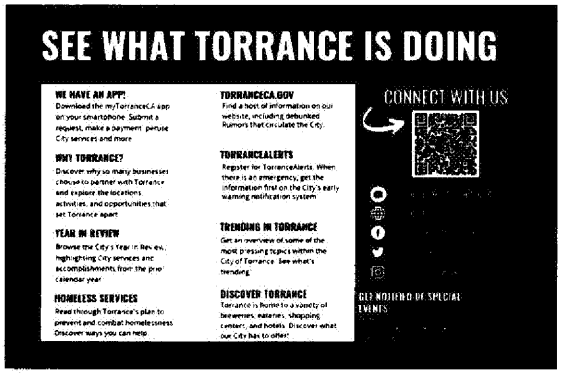
Subject: URGENT: Info needed for our HOA Meeting by Tuesday, March 12, 2024

From: Ramirez, Michelle <MRamirez@TorranceCA.Gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:26 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Chaparyan, Aram <AChaparyan@TorranceCA.Gov>; Griffiths, Mike <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.Gov>; Bilezerian, Craig <CBilezerian@TorranceCA.Gov>; La Rock, John <JLaRock@TorranceCA.Gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Info needed for our HOA Meeting by Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Good Morning Ms. Argento ~

My name is Michelle Ramirez and I'm the Community Development Director for the City of Torrance. Your below email was forwarded to me for review regarding pickleball. Please see below for response to this concern.

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
Community Development Director – Community Development Department
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance CA 90503 | 310.618.5990 | 310.618.5829 fax | MRamirez@TorranceCA.Gov | www.TorranceCA.Gov | www.TorranceCA.Gov/SocialMedia | www.TorranceCA.Gov/WhyTorrance | www.TorranceCA.Gov/Apps



From: Ilene Argento <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Griffiths, Mike <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.Gov>
Subject: URGENT: Info needed for our HOA Meeting by Tuesday, March 12, 2024

> You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Our HOA at Park Plaza Estates ([redacted]) is having an HOA meeting this Wednesday to discuss, among other things, pickleball courts and the new law about composting. In connection with that, I need some info re the following for our meeting:

- There are rumors (seen on Facebook Pickleball groups and heard from our tennis friends) that Torrance is considering/implementing an ordinance that will restrict Pickleball courts so that they cannot be closer than 500' of residences. Our tennis court is not more than 50' from residences, and some of our neighbors are pushing to turn the tennis court into a duel use tennis/pickleball court. We have seen a number of successful lawsuits throughout the country regarding the noise level of pickleball, and HOAs are having to remove the

courts and/or pay fines, so, as an HOA, we want to avoid that exposure, inconvenience and expense. Is Torrance considering such an ordinance, or is there one that has been passed or in process?
The City Council will be conducting a public hearing tomorrow evening to consider amending the Torrance Municipal Code pertaining to the approval process and placement of pickleball courts in the P-U (Public Use) Zone. Specifically, the City Council will be considering that any new public pickleball courts be processed through a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and be a minimum distance of 500-feet from the center of each court to any property developed with a residential use, as measured by a parcel line. Again, this deals with public pickleball counts within a P-U Zone and does not apply to private pickleball courts.

Regarding private pickleball courts, there are mitigation measures that can be incorporated to assist with the noise level such as the installation of sound dampening panels, regulating the hours of play, and requiring the use of practice racquets and balls (reportedly quieter than regular equipment). Should you have any additional questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me directly at (310) 618-5990 or via email at MRamirez@TorranceCA.Gov.

- We are negotiating with new refuse collection services for our community, and want to be sure that we are in compliance with the new law regarding composting. Does Torrance/California/County REQUIRE the use of green trash bins for composting, or are we allowed to use certified biodegradable composting bags (to just put on top of our existing trash bins for collection)? Also, we've been using separate blue recycle bins for other recyclable items such as glass, foil, paper – is that a requirement by law or just something that our refuse companies are having us do? Don't get me wrong, we are fine with recycling, we are just having issues with having to make room for THREE 36-gallon bins for our trash – many of us don't produce enough to fill ONE 36-gallon bin, and finding room to store in our garages is going to be challenging.

We would appreciate your prompt feedback so we are equipped with the information for our meeting on Wednesday!

Very truly yours,

Ilene Argento
[redacted]
Torrance, CA 90503
T: [redacted]
E: [redacted]

From: gw2ol1@socal.rr.com <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 1:17 PM
To: Mattucci, Aurelio <AMattucci@TorranceCA.Gov>; Sheikh, Asam <ASheikh@TorranceCA.Gov>; Lewis, Bridgett <BLewis@TorranceCA.Gov>; Chen, George <GChen@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kaji, Jon <JKaji@TorranceCA.gov>; Griffiths, Mike <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.Gov>; Kalani, Sharon <SKalani@TorranceCA.Gov>
Subject: Comments on March 12th meeting agenda item 10C

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Mayor & Councilmembers,
It has only come to my attention as of posting of 3/12/24 meeting agenda on March 1st the item listed as 10C. I have tried to do research on the subject matter on CoT website but have run into difficulties finding lower level documentation to review. Specifically "Land Use Study 24-00001". Any searching with main page header magnifying glass icon will return random results and worst of all with 100's of results nothing newer than 2019 appears. A Google search from outside the cities website led me to " Our City » Community Development » Planning Division » Reports & Land Use Studies", I still could not find anything there to review. Would like to know where these studies are archived, and request any future publications that have supplemental material use embedded links to find such.
BUT, regardless I am going on what was attached as staff report and have these comments:
1. Without knowing process for selection of "500 feet" as a condition, I would like to see a map of the city for all PU parcels that "could" be developed with courts and graphically show the 500ft radius around those to identify where "legal" placements would be possible. With the density of Torrance & of cities for miles surrounding, I would hazard a guess that the number of locations are near zero.
Whenever I see nice round numbers, it leaves me to ponder if due diligence was done, something with a formula and result of 338ft would give more confidence & seeing data used for justification.
2. The popularity of the sport growing would lead me to think of finding places to put new courts that are semi-indoor with high fencing and sound deadening material on those fences with maybe light duty roofs to contain the sound, as well as maybe retrofitting existing locations.
3. As far as facts & data to set conditions, I would think measurable levels (dB) should be taken at the many existing sites to see how loud an area is with respect to its surroundings. i.e. Walteria could be easily overshadowed by the noise of PCH and the airport.
4. I have empathy for the situation of those living adjacent to existing sites, and would think some time restrictions would be appropriate, considering many who work may want to sleep in Saturdays & Sundays, a later start of 10:30a seems reasonable & curfew of 6pm would allow an 8hr accessible day.
I would respectfully request that this item is carried on for more input to present a more complete picture of a 5 year plan and future sites (if those even exist). Some quick

research at the major pickelball sites shows that the future requirements for paddles may be in a direction of noise limiting, so maybe as they adopt approved paddles in coming years that are quieter those could be a part of CoT conditions.
Although I have not yet availed myself of the sport, I have walked by Walteria & talked with players, and as I approach 70yrs old, this seems like a great way to get exercise & social interaction. Would hate to see it snubbed out so soon.
Thank you for your consideration.
Gary Ward (District 6)