

**From:** [The Party Shop](#)  
**To:** [Haddon, Stacey](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item #7  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:46:02 PM

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My name is John Keth, my wife Kim and I own and operate The Party Shop. Those of us in the Lompoc community that are involved in the balloon and floral business fear the banning of mylar balloons will be the last straw for businesses already devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. With big events such as weddings and graduations on hold, those of us that sell and decorate with balloons are already teetering on the edge. We (The Party Shop) have laid off our sole employee as sales have slowed, and we have no idea what's next for our business if mylars are banned. Foil balloons make up approximately a third of our business. It would be devastating to lose that portion of our business on top of having to deal with COVID. A California law (SB 1990) was passed in 1990 that prohibits the release of Mylar balloons into the air and requires them to be weighted down when sold. We weight all mylar balloons that are sold at our store. We also educate our customers of the "do's and don'ts" related to the handling and dangers associated with helium filled mylar balloons. Education about the dangers of releasing balloons is the key, not bans that can destroy people's livelihoods. It's not the product that's the culprit, it's people's behavior. If you ban mylars in Lompoc, those who want them will order them online or travel to Santa Maria to purchase them thus sending our tax dollars out of town. I strongly urge you to step back and look at a partnership with the local businesses in educating the consumers in the proper usage and disposal of mylar balloons. Laws are already in place, we just need to educate those in the community about them.

Thank you for your time,  
John Keth