

From: [Paul Gaudreault](#)
To: [Haddon, Stacey](#)
Subject: City Council special meeting
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:37:40 PM

Hello City council members,

My name is Paul Gaudreault. I am a resident of the city of Lompoc and I would like to express my concern. I am the Varsity tennis coach for boys tennis at Lompoc High School.. I am also the tennis instructor for the Parks and Recreation department for the City of Lompoc.

My concern is that there are six tennis courts at Ryon Park and they are the only public tennis courts in the city. The city has done a terrible job of maintaining the tennis courts there. Two of the courts cannot be used because of the weeds growing on them and zero maintenance. Two of the courts can be used, but need need more TLC.

Last year I read in the Lompoc Record that the city wants to maintain a good quality of life for the residents of Lompoc. I thought great maybe someone on the city Council will initiate a vote to to put some of the tax money from all of the pot shops here to improve the quality of the tennis courts. Shame on the city for not maintaining the tennis courts to allow families or children to play on them. I run tennis camps for the P&R department teaching the juniors how to play the game and do not have any decent tennis courts to teach them on, plus to put on any small city tennis tournaments.

I have been approached by many adults asking where they could find some decent tennis courts to play on. Tennis is a great sport for our quality of life. You can play the game with no age requirements. Seniors can play into the 80s. Children can play at 5 years old. All you need is yourself and a tennis racquet, some tennis balls and someone to hit some balls with. It is great exercise.

Baseball, Soccer, Basketball, swimming, Softball all have youth programs with nice facilities here in Lompoc. But in the City of Lompoc the game of tennis is left with no youth programs or decent tennis courts to learn and play the game. I am learning that our boys and girls in this city want to play tennis and do not pick up a tennis racquet until they are Freshman in High school. I ask them the question, "why they did not play tennis before they got to High School. They said they did not know where to go to learn how to play tennis. That is why I decided to share my 33 years of tennis experience and run youth tennis programs in the summer to teach them before they get into high school.

I have set up some tennis programs with Chad Dawson and he is happy that I am doing this. I am not taking any money from the City of Lompoc to run the tennis programs and teach the children. I will not leave any child behind that their parents cannot afford to pay for tennis lessons or tennis camps. I am trying to make tennis stronger in our community. I am giving back to the community and I cannot do this alone.

Starting on June 14 I will be conducting two tennis camps. Monday and Wednesday 2pm to 3:30pm high school prep (middle school/high school age) Tuesday & Thursday 2pm - 3pm (8 -12 years of age). I furnish the tennis balls, tennis racquets and training aids. Plus I do have a tennis staff that helps me conduct the tennis camps.

Both Lompoc and Cabrillo high schools play in the Channel league, where we play against schools that are Division 1 in tennis and they are very strong with their boys and girls that are trained in tennis clubs starting when they are 7 years of age. We are Division 4 and we cannot compete with Santa Barbara schools but we are stuck in the league that we have to play against them. San Marcos, Dos Pueblos and Santa Barbara High Schools.

We need to help our children and help make them stronger in developing their tennis skills before they reach high school age. I am putting all of my energy to do this, but I need the help of the city.

Please initial a vote to fund the tennis courts at Ryon Park to resurface the six tennis courts, improving the lightning and add a backboard and maintain them.

The Santa Barbara girls and boys tennis coach said they just had all six of their tennis courts resurfaced very nicely and it cost a total of \$36,000. \$6,000 per tennis court. He gave me the contact number of the company that did the resurfacing. If you like I will share it with you.

Please do not ignore this letter. I speak for the youth of our community. I will do my part, please do your part and not leave our youth behind.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gaudreault

Lompoc High School boys tennis coach
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