

**From:** Joseph Lusnia [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** April 23, 2024 at 09:24  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com



**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Sorry I won't be able to make tonight's meeting, but I wanted to get my thoughts to you.

As one of the people who were instrumental in bringing pickleball courts to Sierra Madre, I would urge the city to consider how popular the sport has become since we first had the courts painted and instilled the rules of play.

The first thing to consider is a permanent court with nets. This would allow anyone to play at any time, just balls and paddles would be needed.

The second would be to continue the reservation policy, which makes sense with the sport being so popular. This will also provide a revenue stream for the city to help pay for the permanent courts with nets.

I know, I said: "allow anyone to play at any time". There should be, and would be, restrictions on reservations. First there would be open times that the City would choose...no reservations can be taken, and the rules of play would be enforced. The same with reserving a court, the city would set the times of reservations say Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 and from 5:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. just as an example. If no one books, then the court is open.

And if someone is giving a private lesson or group lessons and charging fees, reservations for those time slots should be substantially more .... unless the city was getting the revenue from the lessons.

Thank you Sierra Madre for your continued support of Pickleball.

Joe Lusnia

**From:** Cindy Lusnia [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** April 23, 2024 at 08:31  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Good morning,

As a pickleball player in Sierra Madre I would like to request the possibility of permanent courts, nets, lights and reservations. I enjoy being a part of this beautiful town and look forward to many more days of pickleball. Thanks for your consideration and best regards.

Cindy Gasparri Lusnia  
Sent from my iPhone

PUBLIC COMMENT – OFF AGENDA

Leesa A. Puleo - [REDACTED] Sierra Madre, CA 91024

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2024

We have presented the information contained below at several Planning Commission meetings regarding Alverno Heights Academy (AHA) code violations, but have been told that they are not responsible for code enforcement and are unable to provide solutions or sanctions. We are hoping the City Council will take action regarding these violations and relieve some of the longstanding challenges neighbors have had with the school.

We believe AHA continues to violate the following city of Sierra Madre municipal codes, permits and General Plan:

- Sierra Madre Municipal Code, Chapter 5.36 - Commercial Photography and Motion Picture Filming
- Conditional Use Permit 22-03, Conditions of Approval - General Conditions 8.0 and Conditions of Approval - Community Services Department 1A
- City of Sierra Madre General Plan L41.1a and b
- Conditional Use Permit 22-03, Conditions of Approval, 5.0 Traffic and Parking
- Conditional Use Permit 22-03, Planning Condition 6, Facility Rental

SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 5.36 - COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND MOTION PICTURE FILMING

5.36.065 - *Area standards.*

*A. Residential Area Standards.*

*(3) Timing. Film or photography activities are limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.*

*(10) Variance. Any variance from these standards may be approved in writing by at least seventy-five percent of owners or tenants within a three hundred-foot radius of the property for film or photography activities.*

The city of Sierra Madre - Film Division approved Film Permit 2324-5, A Big Bold Beautiful Journey, on April 12, 2024. The city's website does NOT include the signature pages from residents surrounding AHA on Highland, Wilson, Grandview and Michillinda (Pasadena), so we are unable to audit them for accuracy and authenticity. Neighbors surrounding AHA are very closeknit and openly share their decades-long challenges with the school. We KNOW that many of our neighbors, including Pasadena residents on Michillinda, vehemently disapproved of this particular permit application, due to the overnight filming, and did not provide their signatures, yet, the filming was approved. WE FIND IT SUSPECT THAT THE SIGNATURE PAGES OF AHA NEIGHBORS ARE NOT PUBLISHED BUT THE SIGNATURE PAGES FROM

MIRAMONTE AND AUBURN ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE SAME PRODUCTION. Many people have said we are “hyper sensitive” and “paranoid”, yet, AHA, city of Sierra Madre - Film Division, and production companies do little to alleviate our fears.

AHA indicated in the Planning Commission Meeting on April 18, 2024, that there are 192 homes within 300 miles of the campus. We believe AHA and A Big Bold Beautiful Journey may have violated code SMMC 5.36.065 A(10) by:

1. Not securing 75% of signatures within a three-hundred-foot radius of the property.
2. Counting residences twice when a single home provided more than one signature.
3. Secured signatures through bribery, deception, guilt, and lack of resident knowledge of SMMC 5.36.

The signature page for Film Permit 2324-5 states that signatures from “75% of residents within 250 feet radius of the property” are required for film approval (*see below*), when the SMMC Code States “75% of residents within three-hundred-foot radius of the property” are needed. We are disappointed that city staff provided this outdated form to the production company and continue to ascertain that this requirement may not have been met. This is a very sensitive subject for AHA neighbors as there has been documented fraud in the past. We continue to implore the city to provide better management of film permit processes.

## Film Permit Application Signature Sheet



**City of Sierra Madre**  
Film Division  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, California 91024  
(626) 355-5278  
www.cityofsierramadre.com

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

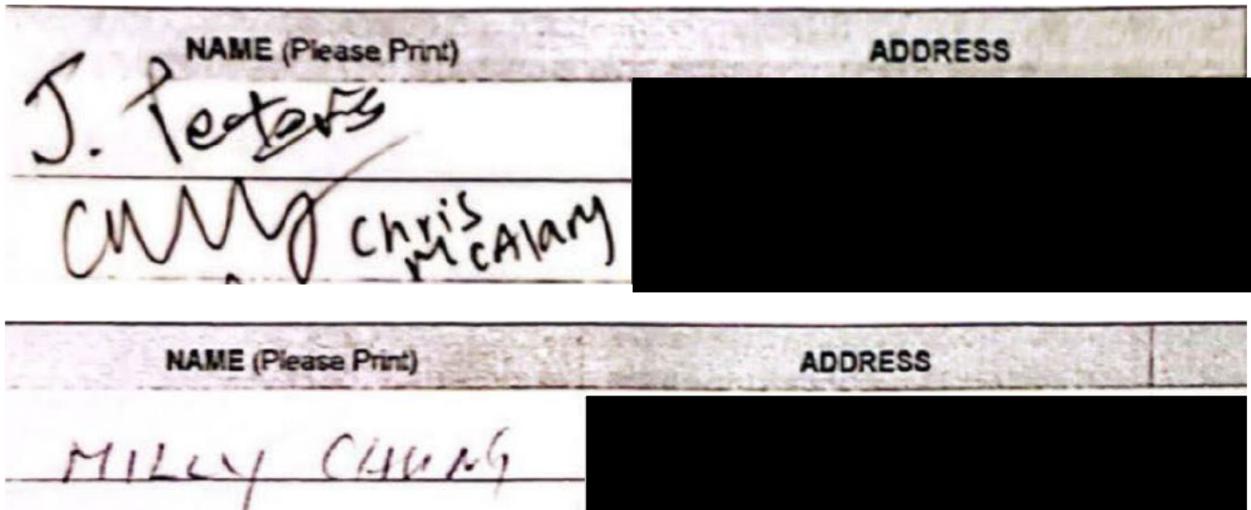
This signature sheet may be circulated by a paid or volunteer signature gatherer. The City of Sierra Madre is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the name, address, or signature below. You may view the Signature Sheet and confirm its accuracy by visiting [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com).

I understand that Big Bold Beautiful LLC (Film Company) has requested a film permit from the City of Sierra Madre to film on April 29 through May 3 from the hours of 10AM to 7AM (overnight). The filming will take place at Alverno Heights Academy, 200 N Michilinda Ave (see corresponding notification letter for specific hours per day)

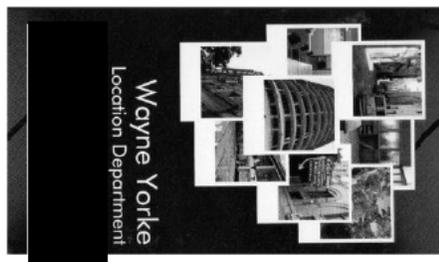
I also understand that a minimum of 75% of residents within 250 feet of the perimeter of the property on which filming is to take place must consent before the permit will be granted. I, the undersigned, consent to / oppose filming in my neighborhood for the above dates, times and location. As the tenant of the undersigned property, I confirm that I have the legal right from the property owner to allow filming at / on this property and am over the age of 18 years.

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	APPROVE
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In the past, production companies have counted residences twice when more than one signature was provided for a single address. A quick audit of the signature pages from Universal Television “Hacks S3 Restart”, dated January 22, 2024, indicates that there are two signatures for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (*see below*). We did not take the time to audit other signature pages but fear this continues to occur.



Location Manager, Wayne Yorke pleaded with residents to provide their signatures, indicating that they are filming scenes with the famous Colin Farrel and Margo Robbie, and that the actors are just getting back to work from the writers’ strike, have been unemployed for over a year, and really need the work. When pressed, he admitted that crew trucks, wardrobe and makeup trucks, and portable dressing rooms will all be located on the Michillinda parking lot throughout the day and night. He indicated that catering would be serving all meals from the Michillinda parking lot. He said that “ironically” THEY ARE FILMING A WEDDING SCENE BUT NEED TO PAUSE THEIR FILMING FOR AN ACTUAL WEDDING. When we refused to sign, he asked how much compensation we needed cooperate. He and his staff returned to our homes at least three more times to ask for signatures, increasing the amount of compensation each time.



Permit application 2324-5, dated April 2, 2024, indicates trucks: “12 – contained on Alverno property”, which means there will be less parking available on campus for AHA staff and visitors for fourteen days! This absolutely impacts neighbors, yet, the production letter to neighbors says nothing. In fact, the letter is purposefully vague and does not include important issues affecting neighbors, local traffic and street parking, like catering trucks and locations, semi-trucks, generators, portable dressing rooms, shuttle transportation to and from Santa Anita Racetrack, lighting after hours, actor parking, trucks entering and exiting campus, etc. (*see below*). Neighbors have no idea

what they are agreeing to when they provide their signatures and specific filming activities are not available on the city website until signatures are secured and the permit is granted.

A - BIG - BO  
 LD - BE - AU  
 TI - FUL - JO  
 U - RN - EY

April 11-12, 2024

Dear Neighbor

After a long year of filming inactivity, production has resumed and proposes to film at the historic **Villa del Sol d'Oro located at 200 N Michillinda Ave.** Admittedly our proposed schedule of work is ambitious, but we plan to reach out to all neighbors in the immediate area to partner with the community to accomplish this film shoot in a manner we hope will be beneficial to Alverno Heights Academy, the surrounding neighborhood, and the local film industry.

**SCENES AND ACTIVITY**

Interior and exterior wedding scene. Rain FX, exterior lighting, wedding music playback

**DATES**

Prep:

April 21-25, 28; 7AM - 7PM

Shoot:

April 29, 30; 10AM - 12AM

May 1 - 3; 5PM - 7AM (overnight shoots)

Strike:

May 4, 6, 7; 7AM - 7PM

**PARKING:**

All parking to be contained on Alverno Heights campus, no production street parking, or traffic control on local streets. All crew and extras parking, and basecamp to be located at Santa Anita Racetrack.

Thank you for your time to review our proposed filming activity and please reach out to me with any questions or concerns and to complete the community survey,

Sincerely

**Wayne Yorke**  
 Key Assistant Location Manager

PRODUCTION INFORMATION	
PRODUCTION DATES (To be covered by this permit, including prep and strike) April 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30. May 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	
PRODUCTION TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Television <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feature <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Music Video <input type="checkbox"/> Photography <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TOTAL PERSONNEL (Cast and Crew)    300 (150 crew, 150 extras)	
TOTAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	
EQUIPMENT DETAIL	Generators    2
	Cars    Crew & Extras Cars to be parked at Santa Anita
	Trucks    12- contained on Alverno property
	RVs
	Tents (Additional permits may be needed as required in sections 105.6 & 105.7 CFC)
Others    Large Tent on Alverno soccer field, specs and tent permit to follow	

We are also reasonably certain that neighbors are unaware of what is contained in the current SMMC 5.36 as it was significantly changed just a few months ago, including hours of activity and variance approval procedures. We do not believe neighbors realize their signatures on these forms will allow AHA and production companies to violate municipal code. We purport that AHA and the production company purposefully duped neighbors into signing forms by not adequately providing them with the new code changes to allow their informed consent and, therefore, violated SMMC 5.36, or, in the very least, lacked appropriate transparency. We believe all neighbors within 300 feet of the AHA campus should receive copies of the SMMC codes and CUP 22-03 conditions that relate to Commercial Photography and Motion Picture Filming BEFORE they are asked to provide their signatures.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 22-03, CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL - GENERAL  
CONDITIONS 8.0 AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT 1A

*1. a. Prohibit any concurrent events at the Villa, soccer/ softball field, and multipurpose building, with the exception of school-related events which do not include additional visitors to the campus other than Alverno students, faculty and school staff. If there are school-related events that involve outside sports teams, unless the events are in the same sport, the events shall be scheduled with a minimum of one hour of time between the end of the first event and the beginning of the second event in order to provide for sufficient on-campus parking and to mitigate traffic concerns. No more than two events which induce additional visitors to visit the campus other than Alverno students, faculty and staff may occur on campus in any single day.*

Film Permit 2324-5 filming schedule (*see below*) and the wedding schedule posted on the AHA website (*see below*) indicates that there are CONCURRENT EVENTS AT THE VILLA ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024, filming (5:00 pm – 7:00 am) and a wedding rental (2:00 pm – 10:00 pm).



[About Us](#) ▾ [Academics](#) ▾ [Admissions](#) ▾ [Campus Life](#) ▾ [Giving](#) ▾

[Villa Del Sol D'Oro](#)

[All-Stars Gala](#)

**May 2024**

5/4/24- Wedding – 2pm-10pm

5/11/24- Wedding – 2pm-10pm

5/18/24- Wedding – 2pm-10pm

5/25/24- Wedding – 2pm-10pm

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	PREP / FILM / STRIKE
April 21-25, 28	7A - 7P	200 N Michillinda Ave	Prep Villa for Wedding Scene	PREP
April 29, 30	10A - 12A	200 N Michillinda Ave	Film Interior and Exterior Villa Wedding	SHOOT
May 1-3	5P - 7A	200 N Michillinda Ave	Film Interior and Exterior Villa Wedding	SHOOT
May 4,6,7	7A - 7P	200 N Michillinda Ave	Strike Villa Wedding Scene	STRIKE

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE GENERAL PLAN L41.1A AND B

*L41.1 Require that private institutional uses are compatible with adjacent land uses, in the following ways:*

*a. Building, siting, massing, and scale shall be consistent with adjacent uses;*

*b. Structures should be designed to a high level of architectural quality, being a visual asset in the area in which they are located;*

AHA’s three modular classrooms, located on Michillinda Avenue, were approved in May of 2020, Planning and Community Preservation Condition No. 12 - Modular Buildings. AHA has received at least two extensions already and are asking the city to further approve a 10 year extension. We believe the portable classrooms are unsightly to those living across the street from the school and mar the beauty of the campus for residents and visitors traveling on Michillinda. They are in no way a visual asset to Sierra Madre and are contradictory to the General Plan.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 22-03, CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL, 5.0 TRAFFIC AND PARKING

We continue to argue that although AHA has a published Traffic and Parking Mitigation Plan, they do NOT adhere to it. AHA has confirmed drop-off and pick-up procedures, but this in no way means that these procedures are being followed. Vehicles continue to queue on Michillinda and create significant safety issues for drivers and pedestrians alike. Traffic on Wilson and Michillinda remains unchanged. Parents still attempt to bypass carline and park, double park, and block driveways, on Wilson, Highland, Michillinda, and Grandview and walk their child(ren) into the entrance gates. Parents park on Michillinda to avoid traffic on campus and students are seen dodging traffic while crossing the street to enter the AHA gate.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 22-03, PLANNING CONDITION 6, FACILITY RENTAL

The AHA Conditional Use Permit 22-03, Planning Condition 6, prohibits Alverno from renting the soccer/softball field to sports groups not associated with AHA. It is our firm belief that AHA continues to violate this condition by “allowing” La Salle High School to use their sports facilities for softball practices and games. We have presented our concerns in an oral presentation at the Planning Commission meeting, “off agenda”, on February 15, 2024, and twice, in writing and oral presentation, to the Planning Commission public comment section of the meeting on March 6 and April 18, 2024.

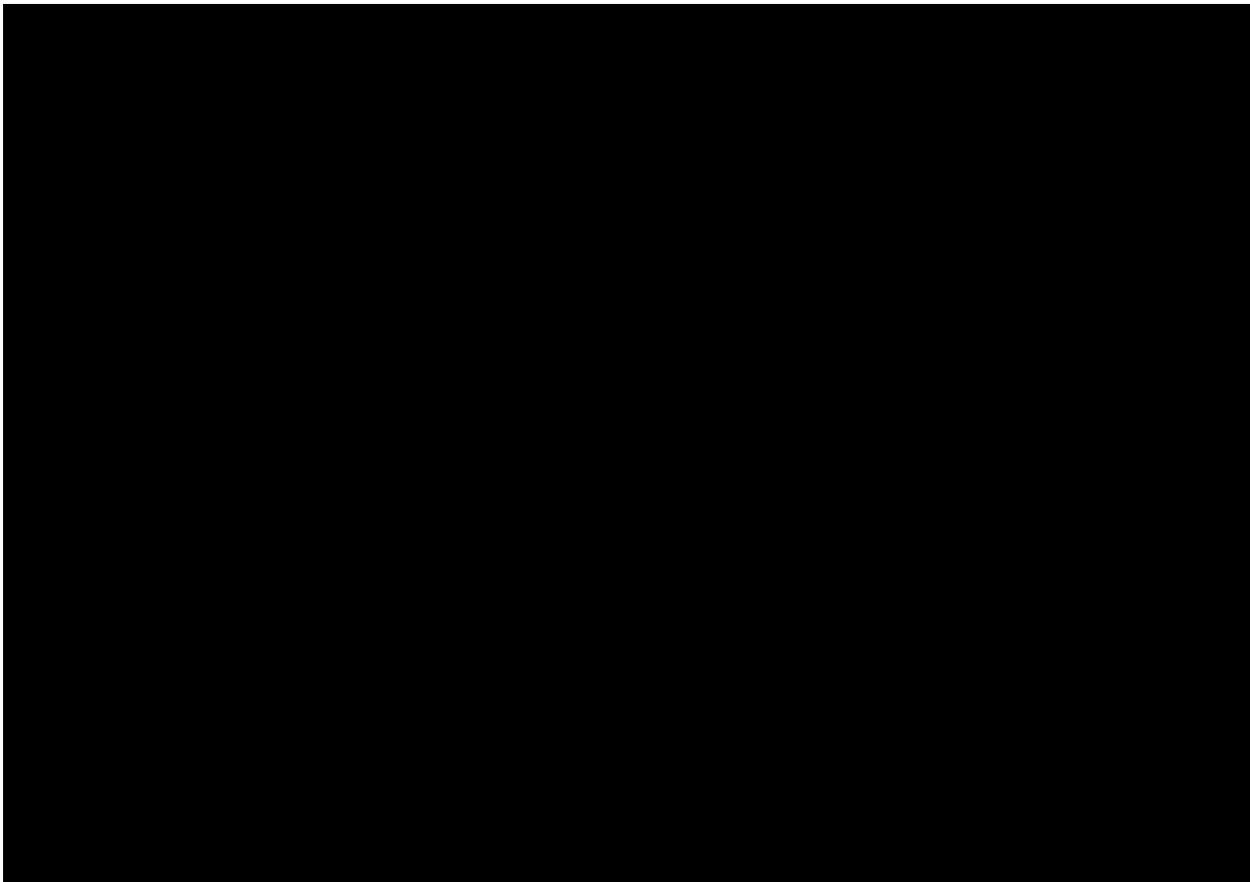
Ms. Harabedian, AHA Headmaster, ascertains that “AHA and La Salle are partners in religious, academic, and athletic programming”. We believe this is grossly inaccurate. They share the same distinction of being Catholic schools, but the commonality ends there. AHA is now a TK-8 school and La Salle is a high school. La Salle is outside of Sierra Madre’s borders and is NOT a member of the same sports league as AHA. AHA is in CYO (Catholic Youth Association) and La Salle is in CIF (California Interscholastic Federation). It is our belief that AHA is allowing La Salle to use facilities in trade for in-kind support or services or, perhaps, giving priority to AHA students when applying for admission to La Salle. Several other Pasadena Catholic high schools support AHA equally, like Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Westridge, Maranatha, and Mayfield, etc. What prevents AHA from allowing these schools to use their sports facilities as well.

During the Planning Commission meeting on April 18, 2024, an administrator from La Salle High School indicated that they were “leasing” the facilities from AHA, perhaps misspeaking, and paying for liability insurance, field maintenance, and other associated costs. We believe this constitutes rental payment for use.

We believe allowing La Salle to use the AHA sports facilities does not significantly benefit the neighborhood or the city in any way. A large sign posted just outside of the sports facility states that the campus is closed to the public and trespassers will be prosecuted. They also recently installed security cameras along the perimeter of the field. Neighbors and other residents are prohibited from using the sports facilities and the gates remain locked when the field is not in use by La Salle. Sierra Madre Girl’s Softball League is no longer using the AHA facilities for games or practices ([www.smsgsa.org](http://www.smsgsa.org)). We are saddened that AHA may have canceled their longstanding agreement with Sierra Madre Girl’s Softball League in favor of the La Salle girls’ softball team because they have the resources to pay for insurance and field maintenance.

AHA has hosted eight La Salle softball games and at least ten practices since mid-February 2024. Short practices also occur before each game. La Salle softball team players arrive at AHA by transport van as early as 1:30 pm and have been seen leaving the campus well after 6:30 pm. It is undeniable that La Salle’s usage of AHA facilities has had negative impacts on neighbors, Sierra Madre residents, visitors, and even AHA students. Screaming, whistling, and cheering of young adults, coaches, and dozens of spectators is clearly audible to neighbors and those visiting the area. Foul balls go outside of the AHA property and onto the surrounding streets, hitting vehicles. Spectators sit in chairs on the sidewalk outside of the property and cheer and leave trash. Attendees’ vehicles, team transport vans and busses honk and idle on the streets and outside AHA entrance gates. They park on Highland, Wilson, Grandview, and Michillinda, and prevent neighbors from parking outside of their own home. Sadly, the AHA softball field is roped off during the school day and during practices and games, so AHA students cannot enjoy the field during PE, recess, and afterschool care, as the administration probably fears the children will disturb the base and foul lines used for competitive play.

On April 18, 2024, neighbors witnessed the La Salle softball team on the field after the game had concluded (*see below*). They brought portable pools and were using AHA hoses to fill the pools and spray one another. There was no supervision witnessed as administration was present at the Planning Commission meeting scheduled at the same time. The individuals did not leave the facility until well after 6:30 pm.



Thank you,

*Lesia A. Paul*

**From:** Karen McAulay [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickle ball courts  
**Date:** April 22, 2024 at 11:59  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am requesting/voting for:

Permanent pickle ball courts , nets, lights and to keep the current reservation system .

Thank you ,

Karen McAulay

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Leslie Baker Owen [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** April 22, 2024 at 10:56  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

I am in favor of keeping the reservation system . In addition, it would be great to have one set of courts designated for pickleball with permanent nets up like Farnsworth Park in Altadena. This sport is such a nice community activity and truly unites so many people in the community. Best, Leslie Owen, Sierra Madre resident

**From:** Dan Roddick [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickleball  
**Date:** April 22, 2024 at 10:23  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com

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CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Council Members,

I am pleased to see pickleball on the agenda. I'm hoping that we have agreement that it is time for some permanent courts in the city to meet the consistent demand. I'm sure that you must be familiar with the successful installations in neighboring cities.

I assume that resurfacing, appropriate court lining and upgraded lighting are also part of what is being discussed.

As for the decision between the two tennis courts, I would hope that there be both dedicated pickleball and tennis courts available at both facilities.

I also believe that it is important to preserve the reservation system. In addition to providing income for the city, it also gives the opportunity for groups to guarantee their ability to play at a particular time.

Dan Roddick  
Tennis and pickleball fan

**From:** Janet Capanna [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** April 22, 2024 at 09:58  
**To:** Public Comment publiccomment@cityofsierramadre.com



**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

City Council Members,  
I am delighted that you are discussing improving the pickleball courts in Sierra Madre. The courts we are currently using need improvement. We need to have dedicated courts with permanent nets, lines clearly marked, and good lighting. Our group plays every week and we appreciate the opportunity to make a paid reservation. That way we can show up and know we will get to play. I hope at least some of the new courts will continue that system.  
Thank you for continuing to improve the pickleball courts in Sierra Madre.  
Janet Capanna  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Laura Aguilar laguilar@cityofsierramadre.com  
**Subject:** FW: Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** April 23, 2024 at 15:35  
**To:** Thomas Holmes tholmes@cityofsierramadre.com

LA

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**From:** Adele Baquet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comments <publiccomments@cityofsierramadre.com>  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts

**CAUTION:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

City Council Members,

Thank you so much for taking the time to work toward improving our Sierra Madre pickleball courts. I would enjoy having pickleball remain at Memorial Park. However, our current courts, while very convenient, would benefit from improvements, such as good lighting and permanent nets.

I hope that you will also consider keeping at least some of the courts available for reservations. My husband and I are each part of groups that play weekly. As popular as the sport has become, it is nice to know that we will be able to have a court to play on if we simply put in a bit of time and money and make a reservation. Perhaps a system where some courts can be reserved while others are on a first-come, first-served basis?

Thank you again - you are appreciated!

Adele Baquet-White  
Sierra Madre Resident