

October 12, 2021

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District

Kensington Community Council

Re: Community Center Use Fees

Dear Directors of the KPPCSD and KCC,

The Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA) is requesting that the KPPCSD Board not approve the interim General Manager's recommendation regarding proposed fees for community groups (non – profits, etc.) for using the Community Center at your October 14th meeting. **We believe there is a solution that will allow continuation of the long standing policy of not charging Kensington Groups for using the facility.**

To address this issue in other communities, cities, including San Francisco and Los Angeles have adopted policies and programs that provide reduced or no fees at park and recreation facilities. Los Angeles has a Community Partnerships Program – Core Partnerships. Similarly, San Francisco has a Public Benefits Program for leagues and teams. KCC already provides an umbrella for the K-groups, so establishing regulations for a community partner program with KCC could be easily accomplished. This would avoid having to charge fees to local groups that contribute to the benefit of Kensington residents.

KPOA, along with other community supporting organizations, have provided thousands of dollars in funding to support the community center, including the audio visual system and the seismic rehabilitation of the building. Under the new fee proposal, we would have to expend approximately \$1,000 annually (fees and insurance) to utilize the building. That is a significant portion of our annual revenue, which is solely derived from Kensington property owners. The General Manager's recommendation provides no information on the amount of fee revenue that would be collected from Kensington groups, but we calculate it is a miniscule portion of the KPPCSD budget. The cost to use the Community Center will be out of balance with the large proportion of our group's annual revenue, and no doubt of other groups' as well.

We would like to see the KPPCSD and KCC explore the option of creating a community partnership program to avoid the excessive fee structure that is proposed.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Rob Firmin, President KPOA