

From: [Brooke Galiata](#)
Cc: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); -- [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Equity Concerns for youth soccer players
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:37:48 PM

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Dear Mr. Mayor and Petaluma council members,

When my husband and I had children, I never doubted that I wanted them to experience their childhood primarily in Petaluma. With a family that has lived in Petaluma since the 1920s, it was only natural. While we live in Penngrove now, we pay property taxes towards Petaluma initiatives and Petaluma City Schools. I have always been proud that my children could be fourth generation (Verna Forry Baldwin, Gary Baldwin of Baldwin, McGaughey and Co, and myself Brooke Baldwin all PHS graduates and my children will be attending CGHS) students and athletes. After all, in my mind Petaluma was all about community.

After playing with the bigger, more well known competitive soccer league for a while, we found that Briceno soccer club was a better fit for our children. We moved them to the club in 2022. It was smaller, more inclusive, and its own little community. I've seen my kids blossom in confidence and technical skill at Briceno Soccer club.

Imagine my surprise when my 10 and 13 year old kids' teams, excited after training 3x a week through cold and rain for their upcoming spring season, were told that fields were no longer going to be available to our club because we did not have enough Petaluma residents to qualify for fields. The Parks and Recreation department have decided that our league does not qualify to use the fields because a large enough percentage of our families cannot afford to live in town. The league has used fields at East Washington and Lucchesi for years without issue, and right at the start of league we are sent scrambling to find a place for the kids to play.

Briceno soccer club is a small club consisting of 89% Hispanic players. While I am not Hispanic, my children are. Many of these players do not live in Petaluma due to the rising costs of housing. Many still, like my children, make the drive to Petaluma City Schools for the day and then again for practice at night. These same families often eat at local restaurants after practice or during game times. Our opposing teams stay in local hotels and stimulate the economy. Players from our other teams attend league games just to support other teams in our league. It's a true little family in our club.

We've endured practicing on the poor conditions of Lucchesi field (a field used primarily by the minority community) despite promises from the city that it would be fixed for years. The dichotomy of field, park, and playground areas in minority areas to other areas in Petaluma is striking.

Competitive sports are extremely expensive on their own and to have to find last minute expensive replacement fields for spring likely means more costs for families during the next round of registration. These are the types of activities that the city should be encouraging as it gives kids a healthy outlet and is shown to improve academic performance. My players, Ben and Preston excel as some of the top students in their grades at Kenilworth Junior High and Corona Creek, respectively. They have developed their work ethic and drive largely in part to their experience with Briceno Soccer Club. Excluding a minority club because of their inability to afford to live in town is not only unfair, it is the complete opposite of the type of community I thought Petaluma represented.

I know that field times can be difficult to juggle between all of the needs of the community. There is room for everyone and for years this was not an issue. Every other club in every town I talk to expresses difficulties with fields. Just because it is difficult doesn't mean that being exclusionary is the answer.

Ultimately, these decisions affect CHILDREN; great kids who work so hard in something they are passionate about. To say that I am disappointed in the city that my family has always been so passionate about is an understatement.

I urge you to reconsider by giving all the children of our community a safe place to play.

Regards,

Brooke (Baldwin) Galiata

Mother of Briceno Soccer Club players Benjamin and Preston Galiata

From: Marie Girolo [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:07 PM
To: Kevin McDonnell <KMcDonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; Christopher Bolt <CBolt@cityofpetaluma.org>; Peggy Flynn <PFlynn@cityofpetaluma.org>; Eric Danly <edanly@cityofpetaluma.org>; Bjorn Gripenburg <BGripenburg@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <BBarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; Karen Nau <KNau@cityofpetaluma.org>; John Shribbs <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>; Janice Cader-Thompson <jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org>; Dennis Pocekay <DPocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; Mike Healy <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>
Cc: Marie Girolo [REDACTED]
Subject: D Street bike lane and parking restrictions

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Petaluma City Council

I've lived in Petaluma on D Street my entire life and the traffic has gotten worse each year. Taking away parking on D Street, narrowing vehicle lanes and adding bike lanes will **not** resolve the traffic on D Street nor will it make D Street any safer for anyone. The city should spend its time and energy on enforcing existing traffic laws on D Street. Issue tickets to those driving over the speed limit, issue tickets to those who run the stop signs at 8th Street and speed up to run the lights at 6th Street and at El Rose. By the way, I walk around this neighborhood often and on many occasions, I notice that the bike riders don't always stop at these signs and red lights. This endangers them and pedestrians. Do these signs not apply to bike riders? I also notice that bike riders do not hesitate to ride 2 and 3 across on D Street rather than single file which further endangers them and anyone trying to avoid hitting any of them.

I work from home and I have workers and deliveries every week at my home. Without parking, these people would be forced to try to cross D Street to get to my home, carrying any equipment needed with them. This places them in danger for no good reason. The same applies to my neighbors who I know routinely have deliveries and workers at their residences and who need to park on D Street. There are plenty of bikeable streets that are much safer than D Street and bike riders could use one of these to make their way across town or to access roads leading out of town.

The loss of parking on D Street impacts not only the D Street residents but those residents of side streets as these side streets could have to be used by D Street residents, delivery people, any workers at D Street residences. This would impact handicapped people and the elderly – would they not be able to park in front of their home just so the city can add bike lanes? Who on the city council is behind this “bike riders first” agenda?

D Street is a residential street that is also used as a truck route – that alone should give anyone riding a bike pause when deciding which route to use. Adding bike lanes and taking away parking will not change the amount of traffic on D Street nor its use as a truck route. Why should the residents of D Street and neighboring side streets or anyone who works on or around D Street have to be further endangered because the city wants to add bike lanes and take away parking? Why should residents of Petaluma be unable to park on D Street to go to any of the monthly events held in the downtown area (parades, farmers' markets, etc.)? All this to accommodate a small group of

people who want to ride their bikes on D Street? Why are the wishes of this small group of people, some of whom are likely not even Petaluma residents, being placed above the needs and wishes of the actual Petaluma residents on D Street and surrounding areas? These residents should be consulted before any of these drastic and unsafe proposals are enacted.

Petaluma is a great place to live but these types of proposals do not do this city any credit and poor decisions such as this one will be remembered when it is time to vote for a District 6 council member in November and for mayor in 2026. I have an excellent memory and I vote!

MARIE GIROLO, CPA

[REDACTED]

Petaluma, CA 94952

[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor McDonnell and City Manager Flynn,

We are residents in support of placing speed cushions on I Street. For the past three years, we have been working in concert to have this meaningful engineering solution become a reality. This effort is the result of tragic losses and near misses. Every person signing this letter has had an experience where they lost a pet, saw wildlife killed, was nearly hit by a car or feels that this area is ripe for another tragedy.

Just this last year, a car left I Street at such a high rate of speed that it destroyed two family's backyards. Had the car veered left instead of right, it would have taken out a yard full of children having a picnic across the street. The car also narrowly missed a jogger. It was estimated that this car was traveling around 100mph. It is our belief that it shouldn't be possible for a car to reach freeway speeds on a street where children ride their bikes and people walk their dogs. Stories like this are what led to the approval of placing speed cushions on I Street.

I Street is an area heavily trafficked by pedestrians and cyclists of all ages. It has been the feeling of both residents and users I Street that there is a tragedy brewing here. We want our safety and that of our families to take priority over a car's ability to exceed the speed limit. We ask for your support in moving this project along. We are proud Petaluma residents who want to see our community thrive and see this safety measure as integral to our well-being. Thank you for your time and effort in making Petaluma the best place to live.

Sincerely,

Thomas Gallagher

Leah Gallagher
Mike Mahan
LONNIE
ROBIN
T. QUIS

M. G.
Diane Robinson
Jan Ahn
Rahul Wills

Janet McDonnell

Paul
Nunttya
Joe M. Jones

MB MORA

Ron Hartzog
Jennifer Laporte
Shantna Wills

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Sincerely,

Leon Gratto

LEON GRATTO

Cynthia L. Lucchesi

CYNTHIA LUCCHESI

Syzygy

Maquette Lonerich

Mr. Li

William Hopkin

Shun

San C. ten
D. L. Ash

Jim down Ben

Maureen Gallagher

David Gallagher

David GALLAGHER

From: [Vicky Moser](#)
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#)
Cc: [-- City Clerk](#); [BSC Administrator](#)
Subject: Concerns regarding lack of soccer field access for Briceño Soccer Club
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:17:30 PM

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Dear Mayor McDonnell and fellow Council Members,

I am concerned parent writing about field access for our daughter's soccer club. Our child plays for Briceño Soccer Club (Briceño), a local soccer club in Petaluma. Briceño has been having difficulty getting soccer fields for games in Petaluma. Briceño leadership recently meet with City of Petaluma staff where they were told the City of Petaluma would not recognize us as a local club because we did not meet some sort of threshold of families in the club living in Petaluma. You can imagine my disappointment as a resident of Petaluma.

My daughter played for a larger local competitive soccer club but found it to be very exclusive. We switch over to Briceño as their mission/values aligned more with ours. The mission of Briceño is to develop well-balanced, successful individuals who desire and are capable of making a real contribution in a team environment and their community. Briceño's soccer program allows our players to play in a competitive environment against teams from other soccer clubs while teaching valuable lessons such as the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, dedication, and commitment.

Furthermore, Briceño supports my daughter's team by fostering talented and passionate female athletes. Briceño pushes them to succeed and strive for excellence both on and off the field.

Briceño is made up of approximately 89% of Hispanic players. Briceño provides a safe, encouraging environment for children to learn and play soccer. Briceño offers soccer opportunities for players that come from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds many of who would not have the same opportunities at some of the larger local clubs. Being involved in sports, helps provide a safe and encouraging environment for children.

Petaluma is an expensive area to live. Again Briceño is 89% Hispanic. It is fact that BIPOC communities are paid less and do not have the same wealth as white people. While the families may not live in Petaluma (because they cannot afford to live here), they work here, they shop here, and their children attend school here. Furthermore, when we have games here, we are bringing in clubs from out of the area. Those people are dinning at Petaluma restaurants and even stay in Petaluma hotels. Briceño is supporting the local Petaluma community.

In addition to the City of Petaluma not allowing Briceño access to the soccer fields at East Washington, we practice at Lucchesi field. You know the field conditions at Lucchesi are poor. The City has been promising to fix the field for years and even sent out a community survey to gain community input on updating the field. Yet it remains a project that has no completion in sight. It is very interesting that the fields, parks, and playground areas in Petaluma that have a high BIPOC usage are the ones that need the most updating.

With Petaluma denying Briceño access to the soccer fields, the club has had to find an expensive alternative which means that cost will most likely need to be covered by the families of Briceño during the next round of registration.

The actions of not recognizing Briceño as a local club combined with the lack of actually making any genuine effort to update the turf field at Lucchesi (which is primarily used by BIPOC communities) gives me the impression the City of Petaluma does not care to advance equity work. Instead the City continues to support the larger soccer clubs and baseball leagues that are primarily white and have the monetary resources to influence decisions. As a resident, I am very disheartened.

I would like to request the City of Petaluma reconsider their decision and recognize Briceño Soccer Club as a local Club in Petaluma and allow us access to the soccer fields for our games.

Respectfully,
Vicky Willard

From: [Erin Chmielewski](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Regarding AHCAC
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 1:19:15 PM

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Afternoon,

I am reaching out in support of actual follow through on the Public Safety Advisory Group being implemented. It is still glaringly obvious with the poor treatment and continued missteps when dealing with the health and safety of our Black and Brown community members that PPD still lacks proper relations. We have a far way to go to achieve true equity in treatment for all residents. We should welcome any and every opportunity to have oversight that would help protect our community (since those charged with that job are unable to fulfill that duty without bias).

Erin Chmielewski
Pronouns: She/Her
Petaluma Resident