

March 13, 2023

Dear Petaluma City Mayor, Council and City Manager,

As we are now 3 months into the year 2023, it is not long before the City of Petaluma takes on a huge responsibility, possessing the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds which encompasses millions of dollars of maintenance and management. This single decision was made based off the staff recommendations and voted by an outgoing city council without accurate information; which will forever change the lives of people within the community. This may also be the largest transfer of costs from the State of California to the voters of Petaluma; a cost the population did not vote for. The transition of management is so important that you should see that establishing a close relationship with the 4th DAA Fair Board would be of your best interest and invaluable to the success of the Fairgrounds, meeting the needs and achieving the planning vision of the community. We know the 4th District Agricultural Association has reached out to the City Manager multiple times trying to schedule a meeting with the council, but has one happened?

Unification of both the City and current 4th DAA Fair Board on this transition would be a most ideal situation. Together both entities are a wealth of knowledge and experience that can build a better fairgrounds than just one side can create alone at this point. You will be doing the community and yourselves a favor, saving time, money, resources, and by providing a smoother transition.

Be a team, work together! As a father of 3 children in Petaluma City Schools, a 6th generation Petaluma resident, and an active person in the community; I would encourage the Council and City Manager to strongly consider the creation of a Joint Powers Authority between the 4th District DAA Fair Board and the City of Petaluma.

We are running out of time! Please at the very least consider adding this topic as an agenda item to discuss. The Fairgrounds means so much to the community and we care about what happens to it in the years to come.

Thank You,

Joe Chapman