

Maricela Hernandez

From: Tracey Arnold <tlearnold@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Maricela Hernandez
Subject: For May 26 council meeting: use of stimulus money

To Whom It Concerns,

While there's no question that essential/frontline workers such as those working in grocery stores are owed hero's pay for working through the pandemic, I object to The City of Calabasas funding it with stimulus money. Ralph's (Kroger), Albertsons, Gelsons are large corporations who can afford to pay their employees their well deserved hero's pay. They just don't want to because it would decrease their profits. Given the ongoing increases in food and household costs, those profits continue to inflate. The City of Calabasas' shouldn't feel a responsibility to make up for corporations who lack morals and empathy. And why stop at grocery workers? What about offering hero's pay to the people who worked at Starbucks, gas stations, the post office, etc.? Whatever the profession, it's the employers who must be held accountable to reward their employees for a job well done.

In fact, The Calabasas Chamber of Commerce should encourage their members, especially those with larger businesses, to pay their employees hero's pay. **Instead, the Chamber is likely responsible for businesses colluding not to pay their employees hero's pay.** This is why The City of Calabasas should absolutely not give any of the stimulus funds to the Chamber. Sure the Chamber may have given businesses advice on how to remain open during the pandemic but that's their job. Furthermore, these businesses choose to open in Calabasas because they think they can make more money here. Most of them thrive. Yes, the pandemic decreased their profits temporarily but they survived and now many of them will go back to overcharging. The Chamber didn't do anything heroic and aren't deserving of or owed any stimulus money from The City of Calabasas. Though sadly, I suspect the Calabasas City Council will vote to give money to the Chamber to earn the Chamber members votes in the coming Council elections.

I'd much rather see the stimulus money go to the LVUSD to benefit the citizens who were hit hardest by the pandemic, students. I heard today that LVUSD is cutting their music and theatre programs due to the LVUSD needing to adjust the budget because of the unexpected expenses caused by Covid-19. Music and theatre programs challenge students to think creatively, learn new skills and problem solve which will help them succeed in work and in life. These skills are also desired by many of the creative businesses in Los Angeles and afar. Music and theatre programs require after school participation, which means students continue learning instead of getting into mischief. Subsidizing arts programs in the schools is something The City of Calabasas could take pride in as we witness our children grow into productive citizens. As the LVUSD is one of

Calabasas's most important assets, it is deserving of a gift of some of The City of Calabasas's stimulus money.

Additionally, stimulus money could be used to improve The City of Calabasas offered programs for pre-teens and teens to enjoy. Something to do, somewhere to go on a Friday night or anytime besides The Commons. Offer dances, sports competitions and/or tech fairs, art fairs. The City of Calabasas should've built a teen center with a robust program years ago. It's time for The City of Calabasas to do for teens what they've done for Calabasas seniors.

Tracey Arnold
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Calabasas, CA 91302
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May 25, 2021

Honorable Mayor and City Council
Mr. Kindon Meik, City Manager
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA 91302

RE: Support of the Calabasas Chamber of Commerce

Dear Mayor, City Council, and City Manager,

On behalf of **Old Town Hair Company**, I write to express my steadfast support for the Calabasas Chamber of Commerce.

The Calabasas Chamber has been serving Calabasas since 1955 and is a volunteer organization comprised of local businesses, business leaders, community supporters, and companies who want to do business in Calabasas. The Chamber also serves as the Visitor & Tourism Bureau for the City of Calabasas.

From the beginnings of COVID-19, the Calabasas Chamber has been an invaluable resource for all businesses, organizations, and the community providing much-needed information from local, state, and federal governments. The goal of the Calabasas Chamber was the survival of the city businesses during the pandemic.

Several businesses benefited from the Chamber's involvement with the City to provide grants to the businesses hit the hardest. The Calabasas City Council initiated grants of up to \$10,000 for PPE needed for local businesses to re-open and get the Calabasas economy going. The Chamber President visited in person with local businesses eligible for the grant to educate them and help them navigate the application process.

After providing essential support for the local business community, the Chamber needs support to remain viable for the community and local economy.

I hope the City will strongly consider supporting the Chamber with funding the City received from the federal stimulus.

The survival of the Calabasas Chamber fosters a stronger sense of community by building positive relationships between businesses and the City, residents, and visitors.

Sincerely,

Anne Mattson

Owner, Old Town Hair Company