

## Maricela Hernandez

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**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 6

**From:** Julie Berkus <[jberkus@gmail.com](mailto:jberkus@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Thank You

**Date:** March 26, 2024 at 8:11:40 PM PDT

**To:** Alicia Weintraub <[aweintraub@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:aweintraub@cityofcalabasas.com)>, David Shapiro <[dshapiro@cityofcalabasas.com](mailto:dshapiro@cityofcalabasas.com)>

Alicia and David,

Thank you for hosting the President's today. We have drafted the letter below to the council to explain the need for community events for our teens/ tweens/ and families.

Dear City Council,

As PFC/PFA Presidents of the local LVUSD schools, we are tasked with many obligations. Our students safety and overall well being is paramount and why we took on these roles as lay leaders. We love our Calabasas community and are coming to you today in an attempt to partner with you on creating safe, fun, and meaningful activities for our students and community alike.

As you know, aside from walking around the commons, our tweens and teens do not have a place to go, and we lack activities for this demographic. Similarly, when we do have community events, we see a significant number of middle school and high school students in attendance, as well as our elementary school families. The Commons Community Night was a huge success! The Summer Concert Series is so much fun, and the Art Walk at the Commons each year gives families a place to walk around, and, as a happy coincidence, our businesses within the Commons thrive.

We understand the City Council and the various task forces within the City have been discussing this very issue. We would like to suggest a few, and hope that our partnership would result in being part of the planning, as well as the use of our school sites, which may help with increased enrollment and on campus parent participation. Specifically, we would love a Food Truck Night, Craft Market (like Topanga Days), Student Art Showcase, Open Mic Night, or Jazz Night/ Music Night with Food Trucks. We have numerous school bands, choirs, and performing groups that can showcase their successes and that of the incredible Calabasas community. While the Commons is very central, AC Stelle has a large parking lot and grass area, the High School has a large quad, and AE Wright has an outdoor basketball area that provides ample space for an event.

The next generation of Calabasas leaders needs to see what we have to offer as a community. We don't want our kids leaving the community for food truck nights in Santa Monica when they can do it right here- while enjoying local musicians and more! Parents move to Calabasas for the sense of community, safety, and schools. Let's work together to keep our kids happy and safe- and in Calabasas.

Thank you,

Julie Berkus (AC Stelle)

Wendy Russo (Bay Laurel)

Alana Schwartz (Chaparral)

Amy Grayson (Calabasas High School)

AEW PFC

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Julie Berkus