

From: [Jacob Patterson](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: jaimen107@yahoo.com; [Cervenka, Neil](#); [Ducey, Peggy](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- 6/14/23 Finance & Admin, Item No. 3C
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 9:28:14 AM

F&A Committee,

I read the materials and the two public comments and I agree that the comparisons were odd and inappropriate and the comparisons should be recalculated using reasonable comparables (as we did for the salary survey), ideally from within Mendocino, Humboldt, Lake, and Sonoma Counties, not the East Bay. However, since CV Starr is still operating at "2012 prices" as discussed during the budget meetings, it makes sense to increase the fees.

I have an alternative suggestion to address the concerns of the Sea Dragons, which is to offer a fee waiver or a reduced rental rate for groups such as theirs that are non-profit and youth (or possibly senior) oriented. In fact, I would not be surprised if we could get grant funding to help cover reduced or waived rentals fees for such groups. I suggest doing that rather than leaving the rental rates at the same 2012 levels. We need to cover our costs but that doesn't mean they have to be with rental fees when we want to encourage youth-oriented recreation.

Actually, don't we have a lot of asset forfeiture money at the moment? I know we can use it for equipment to support our PD like the awesome new electric trucks, but we might be able to also set up a fund to subsidize youth sports group's rental fees like the Sea Dragons. (Asset forfeiture supports other youth sports and the P.A.L. activities and swimming is much better than our youth getting into trouble with drugs or gangs.) I would be happy if we didn't charge them any fees and just cover it with some of the more than half a million dollars the City paid back into the asset forfeiture fund earlier this year.

Regards,

--Jacob