

URGENT MESSAGE from the Board - May 4, 2020

Our City Fields Are In Danger

**Please join the league in the next 24 hours //
Monday May 4th**

Hello Santa Monica Little League Parents-

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS REQUESTED **TODAY!**

As some of you may know, the Santa Monica City Council has been challenged with a sudden drop in operational funds due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We have all been effected for the past two months, but we need your support today in order to retain our kids ability to play in the months to come.

Tomorrow night the Santa Monica City Council will determine its budget and cost reduction plan on **Tuesday, May 5th at 3pm.**

Specifically impacting SMLL, they are exploring cutting the usage of some baseball fields at Clover and/or Memorial Park that our kids use during Fall, Spring and All Star seasons. It also adversely effect the usage for girls fast pitch softball and other field sports, which will inevitably impact our own access to the same fields.

In all, the proposed cuts include the closure of **3 of 6 softball fields, 4 of 7 baseball fields, as well as all School fields (Lincoln & JAMS) and Airport Park.** If adopted as proposed, the City of Santa Monica will eliminate available field space that we have all used over the years. While cutbacks to city funding and staffing overall are necessary during these economic challenges, the ones proposed for community recreation will result in minimal savings and maximum community detriment, particularly to our children.

See budget cut recommendations [here](#).

We ask your help as a board to petition the council, and let our voice be heard as a 1000+ voice community of parents and players that we need outdoor playable space prioritized for the return to a post-shutdown Santa Monica.

Please use the below example email as a template to let your own voice be heard.

Forward emails to councilmtgitems@smgov.net

Little League International has given local leagues the green light continue summer play within the bounds of local government guidelines. We need the local government to know we want our kids to **PLAY BALL!**

We need you to ACT NOW so we can play later.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope all our coaches, players, umpires, and volunteers are safe at home...and we will be united soon on our beautiful local fields.

Best Regards,

Santa Monica Little League

Sample Email:

Please be advised that this email will: 1) become part of the public record, 2) be filed with the City's official records, and 3) be posted online at smgov.net/council/agendas. Comments will **not** be redacted and appear online as they are submitted.

Don't forget to add your name at the end... not **YOUR NAME!**

Email address : councilmtgitems@smgov.net

Subject line : Santa Monica City Council Special Meeting (5/5/2020) - Item 8

Dear Santa Monica City Council,

Please vote to continue to fund parks and recreation fields during these extraordinary times, specifically access to Clover Park, Memorial Park, Marine Park, JAMS, Lincoln MS and Airport Park to continue. While overall cutbacks to city funding and staffing are necessary during this economic challenge, the ones proposed for community recreation will result in minimal savings and maximum community detriment, particularly to our children.

While choices are difficult, the continuation of youth recreational activities plays an important roll in the physical and emotional well being of our city's youngest residents. Unlike adults who are better equipped to handle the challenges COVID-19 has brought to all of us, our children need the structure and support organized youth activities bring. Soccer, baseball, softball and lacrosse offer huge returns on investment as thousands of children can participate in these activities through organizations like Santa Monica Little League, with little to no city involvement other than permitting and basic maintenance of facilities. I urge the city to council to prioritize outdoor, large scale youth sports, including baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.

We rely on our Santa Monica Parks and Fields for our children to exercise and participate in youth sports, so please ensure all of these fields remain available for all to use after the State mandated "Stay at home" guidance ends.

Sincerely,

Your name

Facebook [Here](#) / Instagram [Here](#)