



City Council
1300 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear City Council:

This year, the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair will be 45 years old. The Hometown Fair is run by a twenty member volunteer board, without corporate sponsorship and without a commercial enterprise operating it. The Hometown Fair is qualified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is a true community fair that enables 100+ South Bay civic, sport, and educational groups to directly raise funds to support their annual operating budget. Amounts raised by the Fair itself are used to support the fair's operational expenses and to support civic, sport and educational groups. The City is our valued partner.

I write to ask for the reinstatement of the fee waiver that the Hometown Fair was granted by the City prior to 2009. In 2009, the City faced a substantial budget shortfall as a result of the serious economic circumstances facing our country. At that time, the City required certain legacy events to reimburse the city for a portion of the formerly waived expenses, and our event was asked to pick up 25% of the costs that had previously been waived by the City. For the last eight years, the Fair has borne those costs and paid the City.

The Hometown Fair is a defining event for our community, and we have an excellent relationship with the City. The City no longer has the severe budget issues that caused the reduction of the fee waiver. We have been a true partner to the City and seen it through its hard times. Our board believes that reinstatement of the fee waiver is warranted now that those hard times are over. The operating expenses of the Fair, apart from the City fees, continue to increase and challenge us each year.

In addition to the reinstatement of the fee waiver, we ask that the City also reexamine the services that it provides to the Fair. In particular, we would ask that the City commit that it will be responsible for electrical services and all outside security costs. Those are services that used to be provided by the City but that have shifted to third parties, with the concomitant result that those charges now are paid 100% by the Fair.

The Fair Board greatly appreciates all of the City's support, including the time, energy and passion of our City Staff for the event. We ask that the City consider our request that we get back to the support that existed prior to the devastating economic crisis of 2009, and ask that (i) the 100% fee waiver be reinstated, and (ii) the City provide electrical service and all security personnel.

Sincerely,

Bea Zimbalist

President
Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair