

**From:** [Debbie Hirata](#)  
**To:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** Request for City Council to approve Kiddieland Funding  
**Date:** Monday, November 08, 2021 11:41:27 AM

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Hello,

My name is Debbie Hirata. I am the Key Club advisor for Merced High School and a member of Kiwanis of Greater Merced. It has come to my attention that the request for Kiddieland funding was turned down.

Kiddieland has been a staple in the community for many years and provides a constant stream of community service hours and skills for all high school students. It is here, year after year, that high school students learn valuable skills in life such as customer service, money management, community outreach, child and ride safety and develop their communication skills. These are just a few of the many life skills that we see blossom in these students that they may never get the opportunity to develop elsewhere via their own family dynamic or lack of opportunity. These life skills help mold these young students for the future and assist them in becoming productive members of society and our community.

At a time when the high school's are struggling to get back to a "normalcy" and administrator as well as our teachers are attempting to get the students engaged again, whether that be in social activities in a positive manner and/or relearning how to act in a social setting at all, Kiddieland is exactly what is needed. I think that not funding Kiddieland and giving them a positive outlet and purpose would be a travesty. It is harder than ever for students to gain the community service hours needed to obtain a purple cord for graduation and stand out for college in this day and age. Without Kiddieland for the students to take pride in upkeep and running, they are left with little else at this moment in our community. There have been so many issues in high schools at the moment and taking away one of the few positives the kids have is a terrible idea.

The families that also live in the community love taking their kids there. It has not only been a tradition that has been passed down through generations but a place to take a child that doesn't cost more than a dollar or two. Our community is struggling and has little else to offer. Taking away one of the few things for parents and children to do together is not something our community needs at the moment.

I do urge you to reconsider. We can't take away anything else from these children or our community which fosters such positivity.

Regards,  
Debbie Hirata



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