
From: Christina Topffer
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 10:06 AM
To: bbagneris@ocfairboard.com; djackson@ocfairboard.com; dlabelle@ocfairboard.com; nkovacevich@ocfairboard.com; npham@ocfairboard.com; nrubalcava-garcia@ocfairboard.com; rruiz@ocfairboard.com; tbilezikjian@ocfairboard.com; Michele Richards
Cc: Bernard Debbasch
Subject: Preserve the OC Fair Equestrian Center for Our Community

Dear Members of the OC Fair Board,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to the OC Fair Equestrian Center, specifically the imposition of new contracts on horse owners along with the increase in rent. These changes could lead to the closure of a vital community resource that has been instrumental in fostering personal growth and community engagement.

Our daughter, Olivia, who is 14 years old, has been riding at the Equestrian Center for the past 4 years. She started during Covid when there were not a lot of activities available. She was a shy, young girl who has now bloomed into a young adult. The time she has spent riding and volunteering at the Equestrian Center has had a strong positive impact on her development.

The OC Fair Equestrian Center is more than just a facility for horse riding; it is a cornerstone of our community. It provides a unique environment where children and adults alike can develop essential life skills. The Equestrian Center is invaluable for the following reasons:

1. **Development of Self-Esteem and Confidence:** Riding and caring for horses helps children build self-esteem and confidence. The sense of accomplishment they feel when mastering a new skill or overcoming a challenge is unparalleled.
2. **Leadership Skills:** Working with horses requires patience, discipline, and leadership. Children learn to communicate effectively and assertively, skills that are transferable to many areas of life.
3. **Responsibility and Empathy:** Taking care of horses teaches responsibility and empathy. Children learn the importance of routine, care, and the well-being of another living being, fostering a sense of compassion and responsibility.
4. **Community Engagement:** The equestrian center is a hub for community activities and events. It brings people together, fostering a sense of belonging and community spirit. The relationships and bonds formed here are invaluable.
5. **Physical and Mental Health:** Horse riding is a great form of physical exercise and has been shown to have therapeutic benefits.

Our family is extremely concerned about the health of the horses due to the fact that they have not been able to get proper exercise the past few weeks. It is abusive towards the horses and will result in injuries. It is also concerning that many of the children are missing out on their horseback riding lessons.

Keeping the Equestrian Center in Costa Mesa means a lot to us as a family. I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes and work towards a solution that preserves this invaluable resource for future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christina Topffer

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