

From: Alex Saloutos

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 5:17 PM

To: Knepp, Eric <EKnepp@cityofmadison.com>; Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Agenda item 22, Legistar Item 64836

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Commissioners:

Please see attached letter regarding item 22 on your agenda tonight. As a taxpayer and small business owner in Madison, I'm distressed by this resolution and the continued use of our city parks as "free trade zones" for large commercial endeavors, both for profit and not for profit, without fair and reasonable compensation. A small, select group of organizations use our park facilities at little to no expense to generate a significant amount of revenue—hundreds of thousands, and in some cases, millions of dollars—at little to no cost. If there was evidence the city received fair and reasonable compensation for the use of the parks for these types of events, I would support this resolution. Until the administration, Parks Commission, and City Council have the interest, knowledge, and expertise to evaluate the financial aspects of these proposals, the taxpayers will continue to get stiffed. I ask that you vote no on this proposal.

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Alex Saloutos

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Letter is duplicate of email:

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April 14, 2021 Email: pacommission@cityofmadison.com

Board of Park Commissioners City of Madison

Re.: Agenda item 22, Parks Commission, April 14, 2021 Legistar file no. [64836](#)—Authorizing the Park Superintendent to Approve Certain Park Event Permits Temporarily Due to COVID Restrictions That Will Allow Events and Encourage Use of Park Spaces for Economic Recovery

Dear Commissioners:

As a taxpayer and small business owner in Madison, I'm distressed by this resolution and the continued use of our city parks as "free trade zones" for large commercial endeavors, both for profit and not for profit, without fair and reasonable compensation. A small, select group of organizations use our park facilities at little to no expense to generate a significant amount of revenue—hundreds of thousands, and in some cases, millions of dollars—at little to no cost. If there was evidence the city received fair and reasonable compensation for the use of the parks for these types of events, I would support this resolution. Until the administration, Parks Commission, and City Council have the interest, knowledge, and expertise to evaluate the financial aspects of these proposals, the taxpayers will continue to get stiffed. I ask that you vote no on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Alex Saloutos

cc: Eric Knepp

Satya, Conway-Rhodes Alders, City of Madison