



CITY OF PALM DESERT
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: January 25, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk
Subject: City Council Meeting of January 25, 2024

On January 24, 2024, several emails regarding pickleball were distributed to the City Council and posted on the City's website. In response to the non-agenda public comments, City staff has prepared the following update:

The Community Services Division has recently received several suggestions and inquiries regarding the pickleball courts at Civic Center Park. Many new players have come to the courts since the Palm Desert Community Center closed for renovation at the end of last year. The Community Center had three courts designated for beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels, which is different than the system at the outdoor courts at both Freedom Park and Civic Center Park. The outdoor courts use a "Paddles Up" system in which there is only one line where people place their paddles against the fence to be in queue to play. When a group of similar skill level would like to play together, they may place their paddles together in the line so that they are called up together when a court is available. It is my understanding that some groups of similar skill level have been starting a separate "Paddles Up" line and taking over a court for their skill level only. This creates frustration for those who use the system correctly.

Staff have coordinated with Desert Recreation District on placing a Park Attendant at the courts during the busy morning hours to moderate play. Some courts will be set aside for beginner, intermediate, and advanced play during that time. With this change, staff intend to create a fair system that works for every skill level. We expect to implement this change in the next week and continue until the end of construction at the Community Center or until necessary.

Shawn Muir
Community Services Manager