

From: [jonathan.Vander.molen](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Palm Desert R/C Raceway
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 2:43:45 AM



Palm Desert City Council members, I hope this email finds you well

This is regarding the Palm Desert R/C Raceway behind the Target shopping center on Painters Path. Let me start off by saying I am a Hobby shop business owner in the Valley and I have had a lot of involvement with the Raceway in the past and still continue to try to support and frequent. Since around 2010 when a young kid re opened the track I have been going there with my Son, Now 18. Thereafter with my other two sons, 11 and 14 (adopted) and my daughter who is now 21. We are a hobby family and I see the Racetrack as great potential for people with addiction problems, PTSD issues, Father Son (and daughter) bonding and many more. This is why I am so happy to be part of my own Hobby Shop and I have made a living in the industry at Shops for the past 7 years.

My recent visits to the Race Track have been uncomfortable, confrontational and rare. I was an owner in the past of this beautiful track and understand it's purpose. I have voiced my concerns to the current Owners (Adam and Ronda Drake) through Social media and emails. I have been disappointed to see that they seem to use it as their personal track and testing facilities, opening once a month at the most and at some times not having any opening days for months at a time. But they have allowed their personal friends or racing team buddies to have private track sessions. They did not appreciate my candor in this matter and have chosen to ignore, block and make things uncomfortable. One of their "friends" that holds keys to the facility has constantly harrassed and threatened me personally and physically. Along with the fact that when they have large events (which they profit thousands of dollars in cash), there are many of the attendees that drink, sometimes heavily and smoke cigarettes and marijuana. It makes for an unpleasant environment especially for young children. As a business owner in the hobby industry I understand that since Mr and Mrs Drake hold a high position in the R/C Racing Industry I will be blacklisted from them and many negative comments spread, and that's ok. What I'm fighting for is a positive environment for everyone to come and play, no matter racer, basher, or someone that wants to have fun. I get a minimum of one phone call or verbal question about the track and whether it is open, many people think I have a part in it. I have to tell them unfortunately I do not. Contact them on Facebook, unfortunately they don't respond well and not everyone has facebook. It seems they only want to open the property if they're going to make a substantial amount of money. They also sell products on site, motors, tires, parts, etc... I'm not sure if that's permitted but that does hurt other local businesses. I would love to propose having my 18 almost 19 year old son helping to open the track a couple days a week, on a regular schedule. And have a Free Track day for people that cannot afford the \$20 daily fee. Possibly come up with a yearly membership program to support the expenses of operation (which I know to be very low). As a Hobby shop owner I could provide vehicles for people to rent and since I'm three blocks away, I could provide a code key for a small daily practice fee on the other days that someone isn't present. Ensure they sign a waiver and have cameras installed on the property.

This property has so much potential to do good for the community, it's such a shame that they're never open. One day a month is just not enough in my opinion. Someone local should be caretaking of it. The last two owners were "Pro Racers" and for the past 4 or 5 years its rarely been open. Let me know what my family and I can do to help. We have a local group that will support us. Thank you for your time

Jonathan VanderMolen
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