

Niamh Ortega

From: Pat Matasso [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 4:27 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments
Subject: PDAC pool

I would like to express my views and concerns about the plan to hire an out of state "for profit company" to manage the pool.

It's been my understanding that the purpose of the aquatic center has been to serve the community. I fail to see how you are doing that if you bring in a company who knows nothing about the community or the residents it serves.

I've been doing water aerobics classes at PDAC for over 9 years. I see the many families that bring their kids to enjoy the pool, take swim lessons, practice with swim teams, etc. I believe that will all change and not for the better. So many of the families the YMCA has been reaching out to will be priced out and not afford to continue coming to the pool.

I personally am retired and on a fixed income. That will greatly change how often I can do water aerobics, if they increase the fees as much as I have heard they are planning to do. I drive from LQ several days a week. I can't afford a big increase in monthly fees.

I know expenses have gone up. Perhaps a better solution is to have the YMCA slowly add \$1 to each individual class so as to GRADUALLY charge a little more without a big burden at one time.

Please consider this carefully before making a final decision this week at your meeting on Thursday.

Pat Matasso

[REDACTED]
La Quinta. 92253

Sent from my iPhone

Níamh Ortega

From: ALBERTO FORNASIERO [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 9:19 PM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments
Cc: Al Fornasiero
Subject: Palm Desert Aquatic Center Renewal Contract Coming Up...

To All The Council Members...

I retired in 2014 from law enforcement community (40 years service) and have resided in Palm Desert full time resident since. I found the Palm Desert Aquatic Center a few years ago, which is currently run by the local YMCA branch. I became an active member of the aerobics aquatic program, because of what it had to offer, the staff, the scheduling and pricing they offered.

They have helped me greatly , dealing with cancer, weight loss, all the water instructors classes, social interaction with other participants of the aerobic's program. I'm that one soul, that sits in the water corners quietly, watches and observes people, come and go, the mixed interactions of staff. In general after all this time, I have come to realize what a "Hidden Treasure of the Desert" this center is to the community with the current structure in place.

The history name and background of the "YMCA" is rock solid, family values, welcoming to all, etc. a long time positive supporter to the area.

I respectfully think the council members may be jumping the gun and looking at other outside offers, when in the short run, looks great, but long term run... is a disaster.

Remember the KISS Principle..... KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID!, if it ain't broke don't replace it, make the adjustments you need to keep what works in place.

My two cents to the council members...

Best to All of You and your own independent decision makings...

Thank you for your time and review... much appreciated!

Al Fornasiero
Palm Desert, California

Sent from my iPad

Níamh Ortega

From: Brent Conley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6:35 AM
To: CouncilMeeting Comments
Subject: Contract for the Palm desert aquatic center

I understand there is a motion to change the contract of the aquatic center. I cannot believe that the contract has been recommended by the staff to award the contact to a for profit group out of Florida? Palm desert has always encouraged local organizations to be awarded contracts. The ymca has local ties and provides jobs and activities for local citizens. I encourage u to award the contract to the ymca

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

We like that the Aquatic Center is currently managed by a Local non-profit organization with a presence in the Community..in fact in the park next door!

We like that YMCA's have successfully served Communities across the USA since 1851.

We like that YMCAs have successfully managed Swimming pools in MOST if NOT ALL of those Communities. (Not sure this is

Communities. (Not sure this is true for the new company being recommended.)

We like the Aquatic Center pools and the excellent way they are maintained.

We like our Water Fitness Instructors and the Classes that are offered six days a week. PDAC IS an important exercise facility for our Community and it offers healing opportunities for those recovering from joint replacement surgeries, strokes, and other health issues.

And many, many other reasons.

I believe things cannot truly get better for any of us by switching to a profit-based operator from Florida for this wonderful City Amenity.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [The Birdsell](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Palm Desert Aquatic Center
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:56:04 AM



Please please please keep the YMCA in place to manage this wonderful Palm Desert asset. We love the programming and we are listened to whenever we make suggestions for new classes or timing. They are a wonderful group who make themselves accessible to us each and every day that we use the pool.

We are property owners in Palm Desert and although we are Canadian, we have made great use of the pool for winter months over the last few years.

It is well-run and non-profit based! Our swim classes donate additional funds to the YMCA each year (yes! even us Canadians!)

It is to our benefit to donate to the wonderful programs throughout the valley that support the citizens who benefit from YMCA programs.

WHY on earth would you bring in a profit based company to replace them? Why you would replace an organization that is doing a good job?

Look what happened to the Desert Willow golf course when you changed the management!

We were regular players there for years until the management changed and now it is impossible to get a tee time because preference for tee times is given to vacationers staying at hotels at Desert Willow! How is that fair that we as Palm Desert tax payers can no longer use the Golf Course?!

We fear that that is exactly what would happen at PDAC if you change the management!

The City of Palm Desert needs to give preference to residents and we are very happy with the way the YMCA currently manages PDAC.

Please DO NOT give the contract to a non-local company!!!

Janet Birdsell



Palm Desert, CA 92260

From: [Louise Schwartz](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Keep the Aquatic Center managed by the YMCA
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 1:23:32 PM



Hello,

I have heard that the management of the Aquatic Center may be assigned to a company in Florida.

The current management by the YMCA is wonderful for our community and members. The YMCA is a highly reputable organization that does so much good to ensure access to programs for many within the community. Please stay loyal to them and their dedication to our wonderful community. This facility is so important and such a big part of the wellbeing of so many and the YMCA is doing such a wonderful job at keeping the facility the beautiful and inclusive place it should be.

Thanks,

Louise Schwartz

From: [Nancy Dowling](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Subject: Local Management for Local Amenities (AQUATIC CTR)
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 7:06:12 PM



Dear Palm Desert City Council,

I am writing to object to the proposal of having our Aquatic Center managed by a Florida-based company. The center is a city amenity that should be managed locally to best serve the needs of our community.

The YMCA, with its local presence and long history of service, has done an excellent job in maintaining the pools and offering a range of classes. Switching to a profit-based operator from Florida would not improve the center but could potentially harm the quality of this wonderful city amenity.

Thank you for considering my views.

Warm regards,

Nancy Dowling
Palm Desert

From: [Kelle Bates](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: The Aquatic Center: A Health Asset We Can't Afford to Lose
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 7:49:18 PM



Dear Palm Desert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong reservations about the proposal to hand over the management of our Aquatic Center to a Florida-based company.

The center is not just a recreational facility; it's a health asset. It offers water fitness classes six days a week and serves as a healing center for those recovering from joint replacements, strokes, and other health issues. The YMCA has done an excellent job in this regard, and we should not risk losing these benefits by changing operators.

Please reconsider this proposal for the sake of our community's health.

Sincerely,

Kelle Bates, Palm Desert

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rosemary Kerr](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Aquatic Center Takeover
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 8:09:27 PM



Dear Palm Desert City Council,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal of having our beloved Aquatic Center managed by a Florida-based company. Our community takes great pride in the fact that the center is currently managed by a local non-profit organization, situated right next to the park.

The YMCA has been serving communities across the USA since 1851, and their expertise in managing swimming pools is unparalleled. The Aquatic Center is not just a pool; it's a community hub offering water fitness classes six days a week and providing essential rehabilitation opportunities for those recovering from surgeries and other health issues.

Switching to a profit-based operator from Florida would not only undermine our community values but also risk the quality of services we currently enjoy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Rosemary Kerr
Palm Desert resident
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barbara Conway](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Palm Desert Aquatic Center
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 9:20:23 PM

This is for the City Council Members for their October 12 meeting.

I'm writing this to hopefully help you to make the decision for the YMCA to keep managing the Aquatic Center. I love the way the YMCA runs the facility. Very organized, keeping the pools maintained in an excellent way. In fact the whole center is maintained in a pristine welcoming manner. The Water and Fitness instructors are very good, professional and make working out fun and enjoyable. The classes they offer 6 days a week are very helpful for the elderly as they help movement, strengthening, coordination, arthritis, balance. Etc. I go 3 days a week, so much better than going to a gym. The YMCA is a non profit community based organization. I appreciate all they have done with Center and our community. It would be so disappointing to give the Center to some outside profit-based operator from Florida. I believe things will change and not for good, and I believe that switching the operations from YMCA to some outside operation will do harm for our community. It makes me sad.

Best Regards,
Barbara Conway

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jane Haskell](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: The park in Palm Desert
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:37:03 PM



To the attention of the Palm Desert City Council;

I am a resident of La Quinta. I use the facilities of the Palm Desert Park for water aerobics, swimming, softball, etc regularly. I'm quite concerned about a for profit company from out of state taking over the park. The YMCA is a non-profit organization and is doing a wonderful job.

I love the employees who are so qualified and helpful.

I don't want it to become a tourist trap which would make our beautiful park become a poor man's Disneyland.

Sincerely,

Jane Haskell

[REDACTED]

La Quinta CA 92253

[REDACTED]

From: lqcandc50@gmail.com
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: YMCA's Proven Success in Managing Community Pools
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 10:20:16 AM



Dear Palm Desert City Council,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposal to have the Aquatic Center managed by a Florida company. The YMCA has a proven track record of successfully managing swimming pools across the nation since 1851. Their experience and commitment to community well-being are unmatched.

Our Aquatic Center is an essential part of our community, offering water fitness classes and serving as a rehabilitation center for those recovering from various health issues. The YMCA has successfully managed to maintain the pools in excellent condition, and we would like to see that continue.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposal and keep the management local.

Sincerely,

Melinda Moore

Palm Desert

From: cecebarlow@verizon.net
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Is the Florida Company Equipped to Manage Our Aquatic Center?
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 12:18:44 PM



Palm Desert City Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern about the Council's proposal to have the Aquatic Center managed by a Florida-based company. The YMCA has a history of successfully managing pools in communities across the country, but we know little about the company you are considering. I sincerely hope you will not select a company that does not have the history and level of expertise that YMCA offers.

The Aquatic Center is very important to our community and serves many citizens outside Palm Desert. **As a resident of La Quinta who appreciates the programs offered at the Center,** I hope you will carefully consider this decision.

Thank you.

CeCe Barlow

La Quinta, CA

From: [WENDY POWELL](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Palm Desert Aquatic Center
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:07:12 PM

Dear Palm Desert City Council Members,

My name is Wendy Powell, and I live in Palm Desert. Thank you for reading my email. I am a professional Senior care giver, working for Home Sweet Home. The lady I assist asked for my help in sending an email. She was an original donor, when the Aquatic Center was built. Following is her email.

Dear Palm Desert City Council Members,

Thank you for reading my letter. My name is Helen Sweatt, and I am a resident of Palm Desert. I have lived at Chaparral Country Club for 36 years. My late husband and I were original donors to the city of Palm Desert, for building a new "Aquatic Center." The rendering photos were lovely. The presentation to those of us in the community; well, it was second to none. We marveled as we watched the parking lot being built, without one beautiful palm tree removed. It was a destination to drive by, with so many exciting things being built at Civic Center Park. We continued our pledge to help build the facility, because we believed in the YMCA. We believed in the City of Palm Desert's vision. A non-profit Aquatic Center, owned by the city and run by the YMCA. A place for families, Seniors, sports groups, Water Aerobics, College Of The Desert, and simply lounging in the water. There would be slides, and diving boards, but not too many. This wasn't going to be a money-making Water Park. The Palm Desert community financially helped make our Aquatic Center a reality. The aquatic facility we were presented with will significantly change, if a for profit company is chosen to run the pool. Please do not allow our gem, to transition into another Sports Complex. I remember; this is not what the City of Palm Desert envisioned. My husband and I participated in presentations. The Palm Desert Aquatic Center was never intended to be for profit. Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

Helen A. Sweatt

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert 92260

Dear Palm Desert City Council Members,

Wendy here again. I enjoy going to the Aquatic Center. I am also opposed to replacing the YMCA, as their management. I love seeing the various groups mingle together. Children taking their swim lessons, Water Aerobics classes, lap swimmers, and friends relaxing at the picnic tables. This is a community location. Please reconsider the possibility of changing, those who run the Aquatic Center. I so hope the non-profit YMCA will remain, and won't be replaced by an out of state company. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy Powell

[REDACTED]
Palm Desert, 92260

Sent from my iPad

From: [Donna DeBardi](#)
To: [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)
Subject: Aquatic Center management change
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 2:27:02 PM



Dear City Council Members,

The Palm Desert Aquatic Center is a wonderful asset for the community. As an older adult, I use the Silver Sneakers program to help me remain healthy and mobile. The water aerobics, silver sneakers classic and chair yoga classes are of great benefit to me and many of my neighbors -- many of whom are well into their 80's and 90's. Please insure that whoever manages the Aquatic Center continues the contract with Silver Sneakers. We older residents need these programs.

Thanks for your consideration.

Donna DeBardi



Palm Desert 92260