

From: [Kurt Gibbs](#)
To: [City Hall Mail](#); [Jan Harnik](#); [CityClerk](#); [Chris Escobedo](#); [Karina Quintanilla](#); [Gina Nestande](#); [Joe Pradetto](#); [Pedro Rodriguez](#); [Evan Trubee](#)
Subject: Shadow Mountain Unpermitted Pickleball Courts and Continued Usage
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 7:30:43 AM



Dear City Clerk, City Councilmembers, and City Manager,

Please read this correspondence into the record at the City Council meeting scheduled for February 26, 2026.

We love Palm Desert. We love our neighborhood. The amenities that Shadow Mountain Resort has to offer, including tennis, golf, swimming, and dining are an integral part of the neighborhood and partly why we purchased our home. However, we, along with many other neighbors near the resort, remain deeply concerned and dismayed by the continued use of unpermitted pickleball courts at the property.

The resort's stated plan to operate a total of eleven courts—potentially accommodating up to forty-four simultaneous players—without proper permits is beyond unacceptable. Even with the three currently operating unpermitted courts, the noise level has already made quiet enjoyment of our neighborhood extremely difficult. Pop. Pop. Pop. Pop. Expanding to eleven courts would be completely destructive to the residential character and livability of the surrounding area.

It is increasingly clear that the City's current Noise Ordinance does not adequately address the unique acoustic impacts of modern outdoor pickleball. Pop. Pop. Pop. Pop. The sharp, repetitive impulse sound of paddle striking ball is qualitatively different from typical ambient recreational noise. As noted by a leading national

pickleball land-use attorney, psychoacoustics plays a significant role in community response because the sound's character, frequency, and repetition closely resemble gunshots, subconsciously inducing fear and heightened irritability. Any meaningful ordinance update must account not only for decibel thresholds, but also for sound character, impulsivity, and repetitive frequency.

We understand that Code Compliance has been in communication with the Resort. Pop. Pop. Pop. Pop. However, the continued play on unpermitted courts—and the recent addition of nets to the newly constructed eight courts—demonstrates that prior directives have not resulted in compliance. Whether the Resort is unwilling or unable to comply with the City's suspension requirements pending proper permitting, the ongoing violation remains unacceptable.

We respectfully request:

- Immediate enforcement action, including removal of the nets from all unpermitted courts until proper approvals are obtained.
- A comprehensive review and modernization of the City's Noise Ordinance to address impulse noise and sound quality characteristics associated with outdoor pickleball facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter and for your commitment to protecting the quality of life in our community.

Respectfully,

Kurt Gibbs