

Petition calling for reconverting the Cedar-Rose Pickleball courts back to tennis courts, due to negative impacts on neighbors, and total lack of neighborhood inclusion in the planning process that led to the addition of pickleball to these neighborhood tennis courts.

Impacts to neighbors of the tennis courts:

1. Excessive noise

Pickleball utilizes a hard ball and a hard racquet/paddle with a resulting much louder impact than a tennis ball, and a harsh sound similar to a pop-gun.

Compounding this, a pickleball court holds many more players than a tennis court, playing side-by-side simultaneous games, with many more impacts per second than a tennis court. This results in a continual barrage of explosive-sounding salvos when the court is at full occupancy, which is much or most of the time. This is a level that is impossible to ignore, and has totally removed the possibility of peace and quiet for nearby residents for most of their waking hours.

There are apartment buildings on both sides of the tennis/ pickleball courts, so many families are immediately affected by this barrage. Even neighbors across the street are adversely affected by the new noise levels.

Courts are open from 8 in the morning until 8 at night, 7 days a week, so neighbors are subjected to this barrage all day. Some neighbors are elderly, retired and / or incapacitated and are still trying to sleep at 8 am which is now impossible.

Players often come even earlier and stay even later than the posted hours.

Since the arrival of pickleball, the neighboring apartment complex at 1290-1260 Hopkins St. has lost several tenants due to noise complaints, and currently has 14 vacant units. Other tenants are unable to move and have to suffer in place.

2. Parking.

Because of the large numbers of pickleball players that can occupy one court, parking in the neighborhood has been severely impacted compared to previously when the courts were tennis only, with much less parking available for residents. The neighboring apartment complexes' parking lots/ driveways are not large enough to accommodate all residents' cars, so many must rely on street parking that is now severely diminished. On top of that, pickleball players often park illegally in the adjacent apartment complex's private lots.

3. No neighborhood inclusion in planning process

Neither tenants, landlords, nor homeowners in the neighborhood were included, consulted, or warned of possible impacts during the planning process that led to the arrival of these pickleball courts.

Impacts to community health:

Pickleball players can be 8 to a court, not always maintaining social distancing.

Most players do not wear face coverings while playing, despite the posted regulations requiring it.

People waiting outside the courts for their turn to play often clog the adjacent sidewalk and section of the Ohlone Path, resulting in frequent closer-than-6-foot encounters with passers-by and neighborhood residents.

This is a problem re the current Coronavirus pandemic with possible consequences extending much further than the immediate neighborhood.