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Subject: Concerns Regarding the Shut Down of the Chamber of Commerce
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Good evening.

As a lifelong citizen of Lompoc, I feel obliged to stand up for what I believe is in the best interest of my community. A friend informed me the chamber of commerce was set to cease operations on June 30th due to a lack of funding. To think of the implications of this news is devastating, as the chamber of commerce plays a vital role in bringing Lompoc together.

The events organized by the chamber of commerce truly brought the community together, and provided valuable family-friendly recreational activities. We must take into consideration that we do not have many safe and fun activities for our community to enjoy. I believe that by providing entertaining and pleasant events for our community members to enjoy, it will deter young, impressionable people from falling into trouble when they find nothing better to do. I have found the old town markets and summer block parties to be essential events for families to socialize.

I have a young nephew with autism, and I remember fondly how the accessibility and inclusivity of these events allowed a rare opportunity for my nephew to join us in a judgement-free environment. It can be difficult to find comfortable places to take a child of special needs, as we are prone to getting stares whenever we are in stores. It would be heartbreaking to have one of the few opportunities during which my entire family can go out and enjoy an evening in the town.

Please consider the implications of this decision on the community of Lompoc. The closure of the chamber of commerce would destroy the heart of Lompoc. Without these events that bring us together, we have no community.

Thank you for your attentiveness to this matter.

L.R.