

From: [Lillian Street](#)
To: [Haddon, Stacey](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Chamber Funding
Sent: 6/17/2025 10:44:18 AM

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

Secured by Check Point

Good evening, Mayor, Council members, and fellow residents.

My name is Lillian Street. I live, work, raise my family, and run my business here in Lompoc. And like many others, I am both saddened and deeply concerned by the Council's sudden decision to cut funding to the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce—an organization that has faithfully served this community for over 120 years.

Let's call this what it is: a reckless move, made without public dialogue, without transparency, and without affording Chamber leadership the basic professional courtesy of a conversation. That's not how business is done in a city that claims to support free enterprise.

The Chamber has provided a critical network for small businesses, military families, youth leadership programs, and countless community events that directly fuel the local economy. And now, with one vote, that network is being dismantled.

As a conservative body, this Council knows very well that a strong economy is built on the backs of thriving small businesses, entrepreneurs, and future leaders who need access to established networks of mentorship and support. By cutting funding to the Chamber, you are not just punishing the current leadership—you are sabotaging the economic future of Lompoc itself. You are cutting off your own pipeline of up-and-coming business owners who might otherwise create jobs, open storefronts, and bring revenue to this city.

Let's also be honest about the optics. The timing of this decision, coinciding with new, diverse leadership that has successfully revitalized the Chamber, cannot be ignored. To many of us, this feels like retaliation wrapped in a budgetary excuse. And whether intended or not, it sends the worst possible message about who is welcome at the table when power changes hands.

This is bigger than politics. Everyone suffers from this decision—business owners, military families, young people, and ultimately, the very tax base you claim to protect.

I strongly urge you to reconsider making budgetary cuts somewhere else. Do what's right for the economic health of Lompoc and the future of our entire community. Restore the funding to the chamber.

Thank you.

Peace and blessings,

Lillian L. Street
(805) 291-1643