

From: [Nikole Layton](#)
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Subject: Comment for 6/17/2025 Lompoc City Council Meeting
Sent: 6/17/2025 2:28:22 PM

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Concern Regarding Defunding of Lompoc Chamber of Commerce

Good afternoon, Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Nikole Freedman, and I am a licensed therapist practicing here in Lompoc. I work closely with individuals and families who are deeply invested in the Lompoc community and Lompoc businesses. I'm writing today to express my concern over the City Council's recent decision to defund the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce.

This decision was made unexpectedly and without sufficient transparency or community input. It has far-reaching consequences for the well-being of our town, particularly for our most vulnerable residents.

As a mental health professional, I understand how important it is for people to feel connected, supported, and hopeful about where they live. Programs like the Lompoc Old Town Market are not just about commerce; they are about *community*. They offer accessible public gathering spaces, opportunities for small local entrepreneurs to grow, community outreach on topical issues, and a sense of pride for a city that is often overlooked.

Defunding the Chamber jeopardizes these efforts. Without consistent support for local business infrastructure and public programming, we risk further isolating already marginalized populations and widening the gap between those with resources and those without.

I urge the Council to reconsider this decision and engage in a more transparent, inclusive conversation with community members and stakeholders. We need strategies that prioritize both fiscal responsibility and the mental, social, and economic health of our city. Our future depends on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nikole Freedman

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