

From: [Sweeney,Brendan](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rep. Mike Thompson: Letter of Support
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:04:08 AM
Attachments: [Boys & Girls Clubs Roseland Building.pdf](#)
[Boys & Girls Club Roseland Club Support.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good Morning Santa Rosa City Council,

Attached is a letter of support from Congressman Mike Thompson related to today's discussion of ARPA recipient projects. The Congressman asks for full and fair consideration of Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma—Marin's request for investment of ARPA dollars in their Roseland club project.

Also attached is a copy of Boys & Girls Club's original request to the city.

Thank you for your time,

Brendan Sweeney
Field Representative
Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05)
2300 County Center Drive, Suite A100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 542-7182 Phone
(707) 542-2745 Fax

www.mikethompson.house.gov | [Sign up for our e-newsletter](#)

Due to public health concerns surrounding COVID-19, our office will be conducting all business over the phone/email and will be unable to meet in-person.



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SONOMA-MARIN**

A Family Friendly Santa Rosa: *Building a Boys & Girls Club in Roseland*

At Boys & Girls Clubs, we open our doors every day in elementary & middle schools, affordable housing complexes, and even Juvenile Hall with a mission to **enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to become caring, productive, responsible citizens.** We serve 10,000 youth each year at over 40 locations from Cloverdale to the Golden Gate bridge. Five of these locations are in Roseland.

Roseland Youth in Need

Today, there are 2,752 school aged children in the Roseland Neighborhood. Yet, only 916 Roseland young people have access to the life changing child care services we provide.

This means, **67% of Roseland youth don't have access to high quality AFFORDABLE child-care.** They do not have a place to learn, grow, and thrive when school closes. We want to change the future for these kids, their families and, as a result, the whole community.

These young people are predominately Hispanic (87%), low-income (93%) and English Language (EL) learners (74%). These numbers far exceed both the County, State and National averages. In addition, these students are behind academically. In Roseland, 51% of school aged students are below proficient in Language Arts and 33% are below proficient in Math. Roseland families also struggle with the low parental educational attainment levels (55% of parents in the neighborhood did not graduate High School) and likely lack of understanding of the American school system. These are clearly the young people who need a Club the most.

Before the fire, there were already **400 children on our waiting lists in Roseland.** These children leave school each day with no place to go. Since the fires, we've seen this **waitlist increase to 825** as more families move into the neighborhood seeking the last hope of affordability. They too desperately need child care. The Club can provide this.

A New Club in Roseland

We plan to build a new Club for the most vulnerable youth in Roseland. We will connect to current county plans for new affordable housing units to be built in the neighborhood.

Additionally, the Club will be adjacent to new park space, retail areas, and restaurants. From first shovel, the Club will be fully integrated into the new development as a flagship part of the community.

We will build 25,000+ square foot community center to serve an additional 1,000 kids in the neighborhood and another 2,500 young people from across Santa Rosa.



This 25,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility will help us teach important life skills to kids & parents alike, It will also relieve some of the pressure cost burden families have incurred as a result of the fire and pandemic.

It is our hope that this new Club serves as a full community center and can be activated to provide emergency shelter when needed. In two neighboring properties in the Center of Roseland, we plan for two structures that will house key Club components.

775 Sebastopol Road- Lot 1

As part of the Sonoma County Community Development Roseland project, we hope to operate a Teen Club. In an innovative service-delivery model, we plan to collocate with the Sonoma County Library in the development’s civic building. This space will be separate from the large Club building yet easily accessible for daily program use.

Sonoma County CDC leads this project and specific plans are still being discussed. This will be the second phase of our project.

898 Sebastopol Road- Lot 2

Directly adjacent to the CDC development, we purchased a 1-acre parcel that will house the Gymnasium and community center Clubhouse.



The plans for this project are complete and received approval from the city’s Design Review Board. We seek funding for this section of the project as it is complete and ready for next steps.

It is our hope that this **Club serves as a robust & thriving community center for Roseland Youth and Families.** This building will increase the vibrancy of the neighborhood and make Santa Rosa more livable.

The Cost of Building Hope

We estimate it will cost \$500 per square foot to build out the facility the kids in Roseland deserve. This facility was once projected to cost \$3-4 Million. In our post-fire, post-pandemic reality, we estimate our 25,000-foot Club will now cost nearly \$17 Million (including land, architectural cost, and building endowment).

We’ve already raised \$7 Million in support for this project and seek funds to finish this project for the community.

The Timeline of this Resilient Roseland project

Pre-pandemic, we received approval from the Design Review Board & our Use Permit for this project. We are now finalizing plans for submission for our building permit. Once received, we plan to break ground immediately. In today’s building climate, we anticipate the project to follow the below timeline.

Final Architecture & Permitting	July- December 2021
Construction	2022
Interior Finishing	January- June 2023
Grand Opening	Summer 2023

Alignment to Santa Rosa's Priorities

We are grateful the City recognizes the ongoing & pressing need to support families and caregivers in Santa Rosa! We agree providing child care is critical to a thriving economy and community. This project and our organization's mission is **DIRECT ALIGNMENT** with this portion of the City's priorities & goals. We received funding through Child Care Pilot Program in 2021- **THANK YOU!** We seek expanded partnership with the City as key child care needs are addressed.

Goal 5 "**Economic Resiliency, including Childcare**" from the 2021 Goal Setting process clearly names the importance of investing in kids through child care. Our new Roseland Club creates an **additional 2,500 child care spaces annually** at low or no cost to families.



No other project or proposal will do have such a tangible impact on Roseland families immediately and in the long term.

Because the city has already named child care expansion as a key goal & priority, we ask for your financial support to make this project a reality for Santa Rosa families.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Request

Given the influx of several one-time monies, we ask for the city's investment in this child care & community center in the Roseland Neighborhood.

An investment of \$10 Million would allow us to begin this project immediately and ensure its completion in advance of the ARPA December 2024 deadline.

This project is a visible investment in kids & families and will easily demonstrate the city's commitment to building community and childcare. We welcome a dialogue so thousands more kids get the care they need and parents and caregivers can work without worry.

We know our community's kids are struggling. They face new pressure, new stress, and new trauma. They need a place of their own when so much around them is **unknown. A New Roseland Club is this place.**

We invite you to join us in bringing hope and opportunity to every youth in Santa Rosa by supporting our Roseland Village Club. **These kids are waiting for us, and you, right now**

Additional Information

Social Vulnerability after the Fire & Pandemic

The California Department of Housing & Community Development's fire disaster recovery action plan for Sonoma County outlines the **increased social vulnerability of low-income populations in our county**. One key vulnerability factor includes the cost of housing relative to income. Households spending more than 30% of their income on rent & utilities are considered Cost Burdened. In our county, 56% of renters are Cost Burdened, and 28% are considered severely cost burdened. More than 8 of every 10 renters in Sonoma County are paying more than they can afford for rent and thus are missing out on other key essential needs for a productive life.

For example, the average income of the youth served by the Clubs in Roseland is \$36,000 for a family of 4. Post Fire, these families are likely to be spending at least \$18,000 per year to rent a small one-bedroom. This leaves only \$18,000 for ALL other expenses including health care, transportation, food, & clothes.

Post fire & post pandemic, there is simply no way for our Club families to make ends meet.

With food, clothes, and other basic needs scarcely being met, there are simply no funds available for quality childcare & learning programs. In many cases, there isn't enough money to even provide three healthy meals daily.

Our county's youth have been exposed to significant trauma in the wake of the deadly wildfires that continue to rip through our community and a pandemic that disproportionately impacted our low-income residents. Now, as our community turns toward rebuilding, our youth need to turn toward recovery. We do this at the Club by ensuring our programs make an impact.

The Club's Impact

At the Club, we focus on building **academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character** in the growing number of kids in Roseland who need us. We strive to ensure that the Clubs provide caring relationships with adults, high expectations from others, and opportunities for meaningful participation.

We are committed to creating positive change in our community. We do this by making it a priority to keep our young people in school and successful. We offer over 50 academic enrichment programs through our Clubs. One example is our homework completion program-Power Hour. Every day after school, 1,000 Roseland kids (3,000 kids organization wide) receive homework help from caring, trained adults. Last year alone, our Roseland members received **over 184,000 hours of homework help and academic support** (550,000 hours across our two counties). Last year, **99.8% of our members progressed to the next grade**.



In addition to academic performance, we must also look closely at the health and character of young people in our county. Through the clubs, we teach kids to make **healthy life choices** through programs that address the negative effects of peer pressure and the dangers of alcohol and drugs. Over **500 Roseland youth each year graduate from life skills programs** (1,200 graduates across all Clubs) ready to say no to risky behaviors and prepared to make better choices. **Over 750 kids participate in 60 minutes of physical activity daily!** When young people have exposure to these types of concepts and programs, they are **4 times less likely to use drugs**.

We **recognize over 100 young people monthly** for excellence in all of the areas outlined above. Over 1,000 youth are recognized every year in front of their families, teachers, and peers for their success. We provide the high expectations kids need and recognize them for meeting those expectations.

Diving Deeper: Child Nutrition

In 2013, we noticed that these award-winning Club services weren't enough. Many of our Members in Roseland and elsewhere were going home hungry each night. **We saw an unmet need and sought to make change for our Members.** We launched a full-scale Child Nutrition Program.

We began serving a full supper every night and a full breakfast, lunch and snack in the summer. We know kids can't learn if they are hungry, so we ensured their bellies were full and they were ready to succeed in the classroom.



Today, we are the largest free meal provider in Sonoma County and **serve nearly 1,000 healthy meals each afternoon in the Roseland Neighborhood** (2,500 daily, organization wide) to children who would not otherwise have healthy food to eat. In addition, we offer dozens of programs where kids learn about nutrition in a hands-on and fun way including gardening and cooking classes.

Organizational Strength & Capacity

13 years ago, our organization formed when 3 under-performing Club organizations merged together to better serve Sonoma County kids. In the last decade, those three Clubs serving about 300 kids turned into more than 30 serving 10,000 kids in Sonoma and Marin County. **We've grown our staff team to 250** passionate caring professionals who provide over 180 varying enrichment programs through multiple before-school, after-school, and summer programs. **To provide these life changing services, we've increased our annual budget from \$800,000 to \$10M, built a \$2.5M endowment, and maintain a healthy cash reserve.**

Building stability as an organization affords us the opportunity to strategically grow our operation and impact for Sonoma County kids. It is clear to us that the next step in our expansion is to expand our reach in Roseland.

With your help, we will provide increased services, a place for the community together, and partnerships to enliven the community.

MIKE THOMPSON

5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



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October 26, 2021

Santa Rosa City Council
Santa Rosa City Hall
100 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Santa Rosa City Council:

I'm writing to request that you give full and fair consideration to the Boys & Girls Club of Sonoma—Marin's request for the City of Santa Rosa to invest one-time COVID relief dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in their childcare and community center project in Roseland.

Affordable childcare is a critical resource to hard-working parents. During the pandemic, the need for this service has only grown. My office was informed that Boys & Girls Club already caters to 916 young people in Roseland but has a waitlist of 825. This project could significantly expand their services to serve an additional 1,000 kids in the neighborhood and another 2,500 young people from across Santa Rosa. Boys & Girls Club writes that this will create an additional 2,500 childcare spaces annually at low or no cost to families.

Boys & Girls Club has already received both the approval of the Design Review Board and their use permit. I am told that they are prepared to break ground as soon as they receive a building permit. Further, they tell me that the project would be completed by summer 2023 in advance of the winter 2024 ARPA obligation deadline.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please call me at (707) 542-7182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Thompson".

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

From: [Tom Hinde](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Cc: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] APRA Support for a Roseland Boys & Girls Club
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:02:36 PM

Dear Council Members,

Next week you have the perfect opportunity to show your support for Child Care in Santa Rosa by using APRA funds to support the Boys & Girls Clubs building a new child care center in Roseland. As a Santa Rosa resident/employee/etc., I urge you to lend support for this project in your study session next week. Council Member Alvarez has expressed support for this project in his district.

This \$17 M, 25,000 square foot facility will serve as a vibrant community center and provide 250 DAILY child care spaces for kids in the community. The Boys & Girls Club has 1,000 kids on a waiting list desperate for a place to go when school is closed. This project directly aligns with your child care goal & priority.

This project is important to me because The Boys and Girls Club will provide necessary guidance to local youth in their formative years and will develop skills that can last a lifetime.

There are many worthy causes under consideration. However, I believe providing high quality child care will help parents return to work and kids gain ground lost during distance learning.

I hope you and other council members will take an action toward your childcare priority and add this project to the funding list! I'd be happy to chat with you at anytime about why this matters to Roseland, santa rosa, and families!

Tom Hinde
Prestige Wine Co.
cell-707-695-5100

From: [David & Catherine Buse](#)
To: [_CityCouncilListPublic](#); [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] APRA Support for a Roseland Boys & Girls Club
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:46:36 AM

Dear Council Members,

I understand that you have the perfect opportunity to show your support for Child Care in Santa Rosa by using APRA funds to support the Boys & Girls Clubs building a new child care center in Roseland. As a Santa Rosa resident, I urge you to lend support for this project in your study session next week. Council Member Alvarez has expressed support for this project in his district.

I have been involved with the Boys and Girls Club of Sonoma Marin for over a decade. It has truly been heartbreaking to learn of continual waiting lists of kids who need our help. Currently, The Boys & Girls Club has 1,000 kids on a waiting list who are desperate for a place to go when school is closed. This \$17 M, 25,000 square foot facility will serve as a vibrant community center and provide 250 DAILY child care spaces for kids in the community. . This project directly aligns with your child care goal & priority.

I realize there are many competing causes to be considered but I believe we must provide the best child care possible for those kids who need us most. This will help their parents return to work with some peace of mind that their children can gain some ground lost due to distance learning.

I truly hope you will recognize the importance of this project and add it to the funding list! Our community needs this, our children need this more.

Kind regards,
David Buse