

November 10th, 2010

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge  
Sonoma County Superior Court; and  
The Honorable Cal B. Kimes, Foreperson  
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury 2009-2010  
County of Sonoma  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Response to 2009-2010 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report  
Approved by SRALL BOD November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Dear Judge Nadler and Foreperson Kimes:

Santa Rosa American Little League, a volunteer organization, appreciates the opportunity to respond to the 2009-2010 report regarding **Little League-Becoming a Better Neighbor.**

### **(Grand Jury findings are in bold)**

**F2 d. The SRALL now requires parents to sign, and adhere to, a Parking Lot Agreement designed to control hours of use, speed, parking along the fence line and noise. It includes being courteous to and respectful of neighbors and their property. Enforcement of this agreement is the responsibility of the SRALL.**

Response for F-2 (D): Parents sign a SRALL parking agreement at the beginning of each season. The league agrees with the other findings.

**F-4 There has been a substantial reduction in the number or participants, from a high of 651 in 1992 to just 414 in 2009. Based on applications received through February, there will be even fewer participants in 2010. SRALL will field 2 fewer teams for both the minor (rookie) and "T" ball leagues, resulting in fewer games on those fields.**

Response to F-4: SRALL had approximately 388 youth participate in our 2010 Little League Program at the four Monroe fields. The league agrees with the other findings.

**F-5 The License Agreement for Land Use between the SRSD and SRALL for 2010 has addressed many of the concerns of both the complainant and neighbors. The term of the Agreement is now set at one calendar year and the SRSD will hold an open public hearing prior to renewal of the Agreement for 2011. It sets forth SRALL responsibilities, including use of the public address system, parking, respecting the privacy and property of neighbors, traffic control, refraining from honking horns and using car alarms, and the installation of access barriers to keep vehicles a reasonable distance from neighbors property. Hours of use are specified during the Agreement period as from 4:30 p.m. until dark on weekdays and 8:30 a.m. until dark on weekends and holidays. It does not address penalties for failure to comply with or violation of the SRALL's Responsibilities and Duties.**

Response to F-5: Current agreement is 9:00 AM to dark on Sundays. The league agrees with school district's response to F-5

**R-1 License Agreement for Land Use Between SRSD and SRALL**

**a. That all future Use Agreements between the SRSD and SRALL include penalties or recourse in the event the SRALL does not fully comply with each of the provisions contained in Section I. A.**

**"League's Responsibilities and Duties." Specific penalties or fines, up to suspension of use for repeated violations of the same provision, should be adopted based on the type and severity of violation.**

Response to R-1: SRALL's Board will consider this recommendation when the proposed 2011 agreement is presented.

**b. Amend the License Agreement for Land Use for the period January 30, 2010 through November 7, 2010 to include the penalties or fines for noncompliance, and revising Section II. Property and Equipment, D. changing the first sentence to read: "LEAGUE will be permitted use of the property on weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dark, Saturdays/Holidays from 8:30 a.m. until dark, Sundays from 12:00 noon until dark, with no inning starting after 7:30 p.m. on any day, with the exception of the following days (Back to School Night, Open House, Memorial Day, Mothers Day, and Fathers Day) during the term of the Use Agreement.**

Response to R1(B): **No inning starting after 7:30 PM:** The league already has time limits of less than 2hrs in place for Tee Ball, Minor A, Minor AA and Minor Divisions. With a start time of 5:30 PM, the league time limits already meet or exceed this recommendation with the exception of the Major

Division. Little League International will not allow time limits for this division. Games must complete a minimum of 6 innings.

Response to R1(B): ***Moving the Sunday start time from 9AM until 12PM.*** During the spring season, Sunday's are used only to make up games. SRALL's scheduling protocol is to schedule the afternoon slots first for make-up games and to avoid scheduling them in the morning. The league needs some flexibility for the use of the fields in the morning to meet Little League's minimum game requirements for All-Star tournaments and to host these tournaments. In 2009 we moved both opening times back (Sat. 8 to 8:30 AM and Sun. 8 to 9 AM) to accommodate a neighbor's request, moving them any further will present scheduling issues.

**c. No later than 60 days prior to the SRSD's Board of Education Meeting to renew the SRALL's Use Agreement the SRSD should schedule and invite all neighbors adjacent to Monroe School and SRALL officials to an open meeting to discuss possible Agreement changes as well as being a forum designed to improve all aspects of the SRALL's Monroe School activities. The meeting notification and agenda should include procedures for filing complaints alleging violations of the Agreement.**

Response to R-1 (C): SRALL supports open meetings and the attendance of all of the neighbors.

**R-2 The SRSD and SRALL jointly investigate, to reduce SRALL activity at Monroe School, the availability of other playing fields. In addition to fields at other SRSD schools, Santa Rosa Recreation, Parks and Community Services should be contacted about availability of A Place to Play or their other ball parks. The former playing field at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds should be among the other venues considered.**

Response to R-2: SRALL uses Place 2 Play, Montgomery High School, and Doyle Park for Little League games. Santa Rosa Middle School, Steele Lane School, Biella, Doyle Park Elementary, and others are only used for practices. They do not meet the standards required for Little League games.

SRALL is exploring the revitalization of the Brookwood field at the Fairgrounds. This is the original field for the Santa Rosa Little League program and was originally built in the 1950's. It is our desire to see it gain historical designation. Currently its irrigation system is non-functional due to lack of adequate water pressure from the Fairground supply system and it has significant damage from the RV's and Trucks that are allowed to park on

it during the Fair. If we could come to a long term agreement with the Fair, including off season use, we would invest addition money and resources to improve the field.

SRALL attended meetings in 2009 regarding the expansion of Place to Play. As stated during the meetings, SRALL fully supports the additions of fields and lighting to support more games at this location. SRALL also stated that a long term use agreement is the first step required by the league prior to committing money and resources to construct additional fields. To date there has not been any progress made on a long term use agreement.

**R-4 That the SRSD and SRALL each month during the term of the agreement jointly measure and record the crowd noise level to ensure it falls within the City of Santa Rosa's ambient noise level criteria. In the event there are concerns over excessive noise or vehicle related activities, SRSD and SRALL should jointly review the camera system's audio and visual for the period of the concerns. It will be the SRALL's responsibility to take necessary corrective action if the concern was the result of SRALL related actions.**

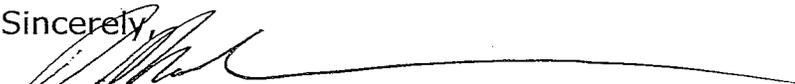
R-4 SRALL will need to understand the feasibility of such a program.

**R-5 Although the Agreement for 2010 specifies when the public address system may be operated, the SRSD and SRALL shall ensure that the speakers are located and directed in such a manner as to minimize the noise levels reaching the neighbors adjacent to the playing fields.**

Response to R-5: There is a PA system for two fields only and the speakers are mounted on the backstops. The PA is only used for tryouts (2 days) opening day (1 day 9-1PM) and as required for Little League All Star Tournaments (1-2 weeks during July). League officials adjust the volume of the system to minimize the volume while still allowing the spectators to hear. During the All Star games Little League only allows the announcing of players names, league officials, special announcements and the playing of our National Anthem. The league will review the direction of the speakers prior to opening day this coming season.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

  
Tim March

2011 Santa Rosa American Little League Volunteer President.



The logo for Santa Rosa American Little League features the words "Santa Rosa" in a large, stylized script font, with "AMERICAN L.L." in a smaller, sans-serif font below it, all contained within a curved banner shape.