

Dear Mayor and Council members,

We write in support of the Town's exclusion of use for pickleball as a Condition of Approval for the basketball court proposed for 2 Bellagio Road. Enactment of this condition will protect ourselves and other neighbors from future use of the proposed court for that extremely noisy sport that has been a documented impact in communities across the nation.

The high pitch and fast repetitive rhythm of pickleball play is uniquely intrusive amongst sports, such as to command a place in the popular media. As the New York Times article **Shattered Nerves, Sleepless Nights: Pickleball Noise is Driving Everyone Nuts** describes, *"the most grating and disruptive sound in the entire athletic ecosystem right now may be the staccato pop-pop-pop emanating from America's rapidly multiplying pickleball courts."*¹ Paddletek reports: *"One man in Massachusetts sold his house after pickleball courts were built 350 feet from his front door. He and his neighbors took their plight to court, claiming pickleball courts have harmful and intolerable noise levels, and the noise was creating mental and physical health problems for residents."*²

The noise of pickleball play has also been found to negatively impact the value of nearby properties. This was used as part of the argument to stop the conversion of nearby tennis courts to pickleball by Point Tiburon Marsh Condominium Association, on grounds that pickleball play at Tiburon Peninsula Club *"is a 'Known Nuisance' that must now be disclosed to potential buyers. Loss of the peaceful enjoyment of decks and patios will certainly have a negative effect on property values."*³

The Town of Ross has wisely decided to conduct research into the noise impacts of pickleball and how planning departments have restricted it in various residential communities as a basis for developing policy restrictions for the sport in Ross (we included sources referencing the experience of communities in Colorado, Utah, Arizona and California with our letter to the ADR Group about this proposal, referenced pgs. 36-45 of the Staff Report). We feel strongly that no permit should be granted that allows pickleball in Ross residential neighborhoods until this research is complete and planning policy has been decided.

Analyses of pickleball noise—including by a city as large and sophisticated as Denver, Colorado—have concluded *"pickleball courts need to be 500 feet or further away from homes."*⁴ Our verandah, where we spend 1 - 2 hours each day and our bedroom window are 450 feet from the proposed court at 2 Bellagio Road, and other neighbors' properties are much closer. Pickleball would severely impact the peace of our homes and quiet neighborhood. In our view, it should be reserved for play in the Town center as provided at Frederic Allen Park where the

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/30/sports/pickleball-noise-complaints-lawsuits.html>

² <https://www.paddletek.com/blogs/news/noise-issue-pickleball>

³ https://townoftiburon.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=5&event_id=892&meta_id=36240

⁴ <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/next-with-kyle-clark/pickleball-noise-divides-neighbors-and-players/73-8beb759c-c19f-40f2-83f3-e09d0753242a>; <https://www.paddletek.com/blogs/news/noise-issue-pickleball>

ambient sound level is much higher due to traffic on Sir Francis Drake on one side and Poplar on the other, as well as nearby businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this,

Handwritten signatures of Zara Muren and Dennis Muren in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'Zara Muren' and the signature on the right is 'Dennis Muren'.

Zara and Dennis Muren