

TO: TOWN COUNCIL  
FROM: TOWN MANAGER   
RE: PLACER PEER COURT UPDATE

**ISSUE**

Karen Green, Program Coordinator requested time to give an update on the Placer Peer Court program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Hear update and determine what, if any, further actions are needed.

**CEQA**

There are no CEQA issues because it is self evident that a program update will not impact the environment.

**MONEY**

As part of the 2010/11 budget Council approved donating \$5,000 dollars to the Peer Court Program. Ms. Green believes that the Council approved a donation of \$10,000 in August 2009. The issue is explained in this report. Ms. Green may request additional funds beyond the \$5,000 dollars however, there are no additional funds to provide for this or any other program in the 2010/11 budget. Additional money would have to come out of reserves and that is not recommended because the Town is already using reserves to balance the cost of basic Town services for the second year in a row.

**DISCUSSION**

Karen Green, Program Coordinator for the Placer County Peer Court last addressed the Council in August 2009. At that time supporters asked cities in the County to contribute money to keep the program going. The Placer Superior Court could not continue the \$100,000 program. It is unknown at this writing how much the other Placer cities donated in 2009/10 or in 2010/11.

Council's action in August 2009 was to consider an amount between \$5,000 and \$10,000 that would be augmented by whatever the local service clubs might provide. Council Members Kelley and Morillas were to contact the clubs. No decision was subsequently made to provide any amount of money and no decision had been made up to the close of the 2009/10 fiscal year. It was only recently learned what the service clubs might donate. As of the close of the Town's 2009/10 fiscal year no payments had been made by service clubs or the Town. Again, it is unknown if other Placer Cities or the County made any payments in the 2009/10 fiscal year.

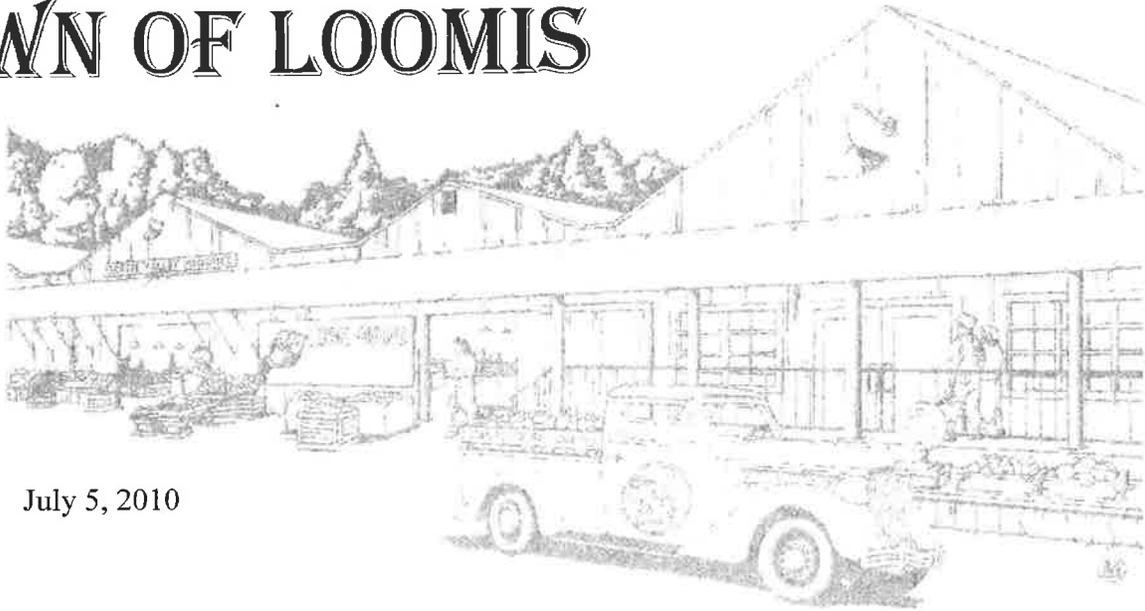
Council looked at the matter of donating for this program in this year's budget review and did approve giving the Peer Court Program a donation of \$5,000 in the Donations and Awards section of the 2010/11 budget when it was learned that the service clubs had approved donations: Loomis Lions \$1,000 American Legion \$1,000 Soroptimists \$500.

It is unknown at this writing if the County or other cities have authorized donations in their 2010/11 budgets. It is also unknown how the program has benefitted Loomis, for instance the numbers of participants within Loomis, and funding directed specifically to Loomis participants. Ms. Green may provide that data to the Council.

Attached are recent Town communications with Ms. Green and information that she submitted for distribution to the Council.

# TOWN OF LOOMIS

1



July 5, 2010

Karen Green, Program Coordinator  
Placer County Peer Court  
671 Newcastle Rd, Suite 7  
Newcastle, CA 95658

RE: TOWN OF LOOMIS DONATION FOR PEER COURT

I received your letter and invoice (copy attached) requesting that the Town pay a "partial payment" of \$5,000 dollars "toward the \$10,000 contribution authorized by the Council on August 11, 2009." The issue of donation amount was reviewed in my letter to you on May 5, 2010 (copy attached) that documented, from Council meeting minutes, that the Council did not approve a \$10,000 donation in 2009. Since that time however, the Council did, on June 29<sup>th</sup> with the adoption of the 2010/11 budget, settle on an amount to donate and that amount is \$5,000 dollars.

In approving the \$5,000 donation the Council did not authorize it to be a partial payment toward some greater amount. If you insist that the \$5,000 is a "partial payment" rather than full payment, then I will not be able to authorize release of those funds pending further direction from the Council. When you give your presentation on Peer Court to the Council at their August 10, 2010 meeting you can bring up the issue and argue for the donation you want. If you wish to do that, please let me know so that I can expand the agenda item and include information documents.

In your July letter you indicate that "...based on the assurance of the full \$10,000 from the Town, I delivered educational program to Loomis, Rocklin and Lincoln school districts." This raises an issue concerning the Town's approved contribution of \$5,000 dollars. This may not be an issue for funds you may have obtained from the Loomis Lions, American Legion, or Soroptimists unless those organizations have restrictions similar to the Town on use of donations. However, it might be prudent for you to check with them so as to avoid potential issues.

The issue for the Town is that in allocating money the Council is very mindful that taxpayer money be paid for benefits conferred on people within the Town limits of Loomis. This was raised in August 2009 when one Council Member noted that the Loomis fair share donation for Peer Court would be less than \$10,000. That said, Council is not unmindful of regional programs where cities join together to accomplish particular goals. Maybe the Peer Court activity is regional in scope? For Council's benefit and public information, if you wish to argue for additional money beyond the \$5,000 dollar contribution that the Council approved, it is suggested that you provide documentation as to how many youth were served, how many from each of the entities (Rocklin, Lincoln, Loomis, unincorporated area of Placer County), and the dollar amounts donated by Rocklin, Lincoln and Placer County.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed. In summary you can:

1. Accept the \$5,000 as full payment for the Council approved contribution and give your report to Council in August. In this case I will, on receipt of your corrected invoice, authorize the release of the money.

OR

2. Give a report to the Council in August and argue for additional money beyond the \$5,000 dollar contribution approved by the Council. In this case I will not process any payment until after the Council makes a decision.

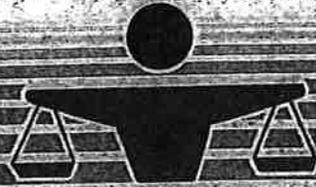
Sincerely,



Perry Beck, Town Manager

Cc Town Council  
Finance Director

# Placer County Peer Court



*Diversion and Prevention through Accountability and Education*

July 2, 2010

Dear Perry,

Enclosed you will find the invoice you requested for the \$5000 payable to Placer County Peer Court as authorized by the Loomis Town Council on June 29, 2010.

I am pleased to accept this partial payment toward the \$10,000 contribution authorized by the Council on August 11, 2009. As I believe I have made clear, the Council had authorized a total donation of \$10,000, \$5000 payable at once, the balance to be paid in part or in whole by service clubs with any shortfall to be paid by the Council.

As I have previously indicated, based on the assurance of the full \$10,000 from the Town, I delivered educational program to Loomis, Rocklin and Lincoln school districts. While I most sincerely appreciate the most recent action by the Council, I do expect the balance will be paid promptly.

If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Green", written in a cursive style.

Karen Green

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JUL 02 2010

TOWN OF LOOMIS

Enclosures: Invoice and Loomis News article



**PLACER COUNTY  
PEER COURT**

671 NEWCASTLE ROAD, SUITE 7  
NEWCASTLE, CA 95658  
PHONE (916) 663-9227 FAX (916) 663-2965



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JUL 02 2010

July 2, 2010

TOWN OF LOOMIS

**INVOICE: \$5000** as partial payment on account of amount payable to Placer County Peer Court in accordance with the motion adopted by Loomis Town Council on August 11, 2009.

Please remit to Placer County Peer Court at 671 Newcastle Rd.  
Suite 7, Newcastle, CA 95656

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## Loomis steps up to save peer court

### Town council pledges \$10,000 to program

Joyia Emard, Loomis News Staff Writer



Tanner Huber

Loomis became the first municipality in the county to commit funds to save the beleaguered Placer Peer Court.

The town council pledged up to \$10,000, which would include donations from local service organizations, to help backfill the funds usually provided by the Placer County Court.

Peer Court is a program that gives youth involved in minor offenses a chance to have their case heard in a court of their peers — fellow teens. Young people serve as lawyers, clerks and jury.

But now, the Town's grant may not be enough. Karen Green, who runs the program, said the county has cut \$80,000 in Peer Court support from their budget.

"We're going to keep battling, I'm still hoping we can get money from the county," she said.

Tatum Jungsten, 15, a Del Oro sophomore, was a juror in Peer Court last year. She said the program shows students "the consequences if you do something wrong.

"It's especially good for those who may be going down that road. It would deter them," Tatum said.

Her classmate Logan Lamb, 15, said he thought it was a "good learning opportunity."

Green, who lives in Penryn, said she came away from the Aug. 11 Loomis council meeting feeling "very proud," after receiving their support.

"I thought they (the council) get it. I came away from that meeting feeling very proud to be a part of this community," Green said.

Green has been trying to find funds to keep the much-lauded program alive after Placer County Courts were forced to cut the \$100,000 normally provided for the youth program.

According to Green, since 2005 there have been 108 Peer Court cases from the Loomis area. Her report stated that the average cost of handling the cases in Peer Court was \$43,000, or about \$400 per case.

She said the cost of handling these same cases in the regular juvenile justice system would have been about \$43,000 or \$4,000 per case.

"In the long run, this will save the county money. It's disheartening to see the lack of vision. They're only looking at the short term," Green said of the budget cuts.

"No one is asking 'Where will we be in six months or a year?' What is going to happen to the offenders?" she asked.

To date, Green said she has \$42,000 to fund the \$200,000 program. She said the Placer County Bar Association has committed \$5,000, school districts have pledged \$12,500, and Loomis has committed \$10,000. The program also received a \$12,500 substance abuse prevention grant.

Green said the money will only be used if "the program goes forward." She said she will continue to petition local city governments and lobby the county.

Sophomore Tanner Huber, 15, participated in Peer Court and said the defendants "definitely got something out of it."

"It helped us learn about law, crime, punishment and what not to do," Tanner said.

"We have wonderful support from the schools, kids, parents, courts, bar and parole agency," Green said

"I've not thrown in the towel, yet."

### Keywords

peer court, placer county courts, juvenile court, karen green, tatum jungsten, placer county bar association, town of loomis, tanner huber

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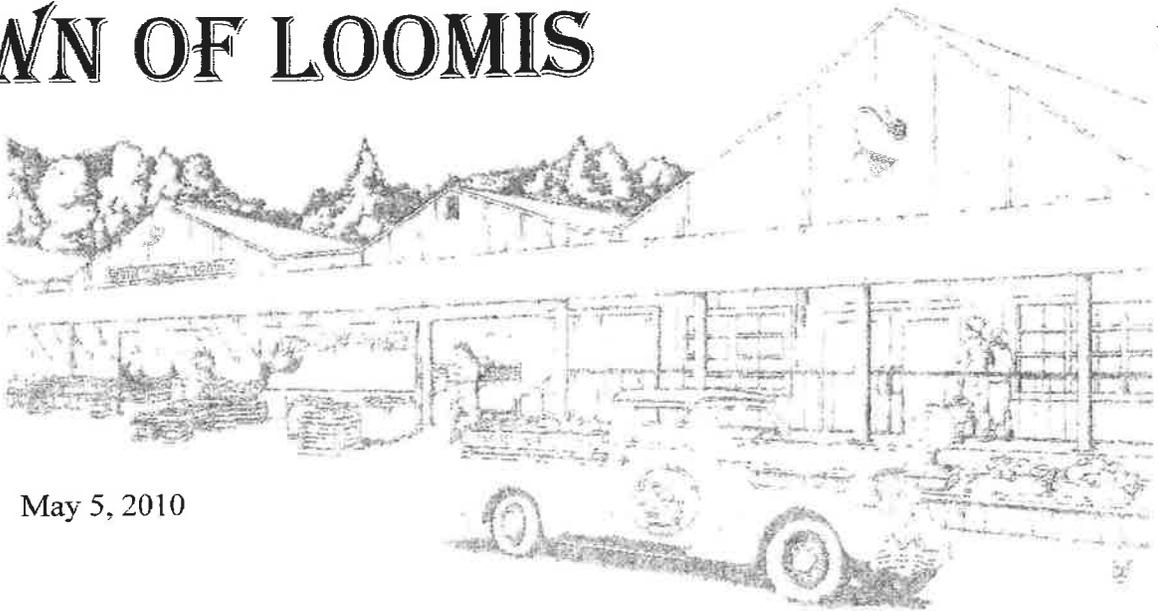
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# TOWN OF LOOMIS

1



May 5, 2010

Karen Green, Program Coordinator  
Placer County Peer Court  
671 Newcastle Rd, Suite 7  
Newcastle, CA 95658

RE: TOWN OF LOOMIS DONATION FOR PEER COURT

I received your request (copy attached) for the donation that you indicate the Council approved in 2009. What the Council actually did was a motion as follows (see attached minutes excerpt for detail):

“...to give \$5,000 and to be revisited in two months, not to exceed \$10,000. Councilmember Kelley will take it to the Lions Club and American Legion and Councilmember Morillas will take it to the Soroptomist for donations.”

As you and I discussed at our meeting on March 23 there was confusion as to whether the donation was dependent on money received from the civic organizations, whether the money would match what might be given by those organizations, and when the money would be given. The item was to be revisited in two months. Unfortunately the matter was not revisited. I think the reason for a delay was to get information from the civic organizations as to what if any money they would contribute.

It is only recently I learned from Councilmember Kelley that Lions and American Legion have each agreed to give \$1,000 to the cause. I have not heard from Councilmember Morillas as to whether Sorpotomist has approved a donation.

Given the present financial uncertainties, and the fact that the Town donation money has been spent for fiscal year 2009/10, your request is being put into the 2010/11 budget as a request for donations. At this time it is expected that the Council will be able to donate about \$12,000 dollars that will need to be spread among the various programs and projects that are typically granted some money each year. Given the economy and

uncertainty of State actions on local budgets it is likely that programs and projects will get short funding, if any, this year.

The Council is expected to consider the budget at their regular June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Let me know if you wish to address the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Beck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Perry Beck, Town Manager

Cc    Town Council  
      Finance Director

# Placer County Peer Court



*Diversion and Prevention through Accountability and Education*

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MAY 03 2010

TOWN OF LOOMIS

April 29, 2010

Dear Mr. Beck,

In August of 2009 the Loomis Town Council voted to give \$10,000 in support of the Placer Peer Court program. That pledge along with some other grant funds have allowed the program to serve several thousand students and parents in the county with information around today's laws. I am currently concluding the school programs and parent nights in the Loomis School District and am requesting that a check for the Loomis monies be sent to the program. The check should be made to Placer Peer Court and sent to 671 Newcastle Road, Suite 7; Newcastle, California 95658.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Green". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Karen Green  
Peer Court Coordinator

12. **Request for Donation for Placer Peer Court**

Karen Green asks that Loomis help keep the Peer Court program going in Placer County for the 2009/10 year by giving a donation of \$10,000

**Recommended action:** Deny the request for a donation of \$10,000

**Public comment:**

Karen Green, 5735 Butler Road, Penryn, stated the following:

- the goal is to reduce juvenile crime in Placer County
- this is a way to introduce students to the laws that they are expected to follow and help them understand the consequences if the laws are not followed
- there is the civic education where the students have the opportunity to participate in real court hearings (approximately 400 cases a year)
- they can't begin the program until they match the County
- this is a onetime request for a contribution
- she asked council to help backfill the money so they can continue this year

Vic Markey, 3254 Taylor Road, stated the following:

- while he was working for Celebrity Chef he received help from some of the Peer Council and was very impressed with them
- what a small price to pay if we can prevent a young man from going to prison, this is a great program

Nancy Beck stated the following:

- this program will help these children make better choices in the future
- she works at Chana High School and has seen how the prevention programs have been successful
- urged Council to support this program

Councilmember Morillas suggested asking the service clubs to donate money for this program.

Councilmember Ucoivch stated the following:

- this program is the best prevention for crime, it allows the youth to be involved as attorneys/staff and judge their peers
- suggested asking each community to donate 50 cents a person, based on population
- he suggested donating \$3000 for this program

Councilmember Kelley suggested the following:

- this is a proven program that actually works
- timing is critical because school has started, he would like to propose donating the \$10,000, provided enough money is given to match the County
- suggested asking for funding from other groups, such as the Lions Club, American Legion, etc.,

A motion was made to donate \$10,000 to keep the Peer Court program. On motion by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Morillas, discussion on the motion:

Councilmember Ucovich stated that our fair share is less than \$10,000 and suggested we keep it at the same amount that we spent for the Swimming pool program.

Vice Mayor Liss asked if there were other options for partial funding, if they don't get the full amount can they still move forward with this program.

Ms. Green pointed out the following:

- they will take monthly payments, they don't need the full amount at one time
- there is \$85,000 that has been allocated for the program but the County will not allow that to be released unless we can show substantial dollars to match it

Following further discussion on the matter, a revised motion was made to give \$5,000 and to be revisited in two months, not to exceed \$10,000. Councilmember Kelley will take it to the Lions Club and American Legion and Councilmember Morillas will take it to the Soroptomist for donations. On motion by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Morillas and passed by voice vote.

At this time Council discussed item 16.

13. **Municipal Advisory Council Meeting Update**

The Town Border Committee (Mayor Scherer and Vice Mayor Liss) recently met with officials of the Horseshoe Bar and Penryn Municipal Advisory Councils and there may be some information updates to discuss with the Council

**Recommended action:** Hear updates and give direction as desired

**Public comment:**

Continued to September 8, 2009.

14. **Open Space Committee 2 Recommendations Review** (Continued from July 14, 2009) TC 12/9/08  
At the February 2008 joint meeting of Planning Commission and Park & Open Space