

City of San Diego

July 24, 2017

My name is Philip Ayres and my wife Chris and I want to enthusiastically lend our support to all the efforts that are underway to revive the rich history and precious community resource that Presidio Golf Course has been and can be again.

In 1987 our Mt Helix home was involved in a fire that forced us to find to find interim housing while it was being rebuilt. We found a lovely place in Old Town for the 6 months it took to reconstruct our home. I had recently retired (for the first of several times) and while exploring our new temporary community wandered into the golf shop at Presidio Golf Course where I was fortunate enough to meet Donna Abrego who promptly changed the course of my life.

Donna introduced me to what is now one of my all-consuming passions – golf. Donna was patient and understanding with what I am sure are the ubiquitous problems of brand new golfers.

Many of my afternoons were spent walking this intriguing little course, building memories that have lasted to this day. Getting my new set of clubs from Donna, finally hitting it over the tree on number 9 and making my very first birdie on hole 3 remain some of the important foundation pieces for my continued fascination with the game of golf.

This course is a great beginning point for people of all ages and skill sets to be introduced to or share time with a terrific game. Respect for rules and one another along with encouraging courteous and civil conversations are just a few of the things we believe golf and this course can add to the fabric of San Diego's vibrant and diverse population.

Chris and I encourage the City Council to embrace the leadership and contributions of the many volunteers and business legends who have provided operational and financial options to help renovate this community jewel. In our view, to let this legendary community asset languish in disrepair and neglect would be, what appears, a mistake that could easily be avoided.

We ask you to please move forward to adopt the recommendations and solutions provided by the Friends of Presidio Golf that not only revives Presidio Golf Course but removes the hard work and responsibility from the shoulders of an already strained San Diego City budget and staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris and Philip Ayres

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