



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager *mi*

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation *R.G.*
Mark Leyman, Recreation Services Manager *ML*

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Discussion of Incidents of Soccer Balls Going Over the Fence at Manhattan Village Field into the Manhattan Senior Villas Property and Consideration of the Installation of a 25 Foot Net or the Establishment of a Fund to Pay Future Claims

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction regarding the issue of soccer balls going over the fence at Manhattan Village Field into the Manhattan Senior Villas property and consideration of the installation of a 25 foot net or the establishment of a fund to pay future claims.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The City has paid a total amount of \$1,440 for claims attributed to soccer balls going over the fence at Manhattan Village Field and causing damage on the Manhattan Senior Villas property.

The fiscal implication for installation of a 25 foot net at Manhattan Village field is approximately \$80,000. An alternative to erecting the poles with netting would be to develop a fund in Parks and Recreation from the entry fees paid by soccer teams to pay future claims.

BACKGROUND:

The City has received claims from Manhattan Senior Villas residents indicating that soccer balls from Manhattan Village Field are going over the west fence and causing damage to their personal property. There have been four claims in the past three years, with two claims in the past six months. The claims have ranged from a broken side view car mirror and windshield to a broken screen and window. All claims have been paid by the City and range between \$180 to \$950 per claim.

In February, the City Council asked staff to monitor the balls going over the fence at Manhattan Village to evaluate the risk based upon the recent claims and report back to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Parks and Recreation staff monitored the Manhattan Village Soccer field from 8-10 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends during all adult field reservations from March 15 to April 29, 2010.

Over the course of these 45 days, there were eight occurrences of soccer balls clearing the field fence. By staff estimates, the greatest heights by which a ball cleared the fence was four feet. All eight incidents occurred during the City's 7 on 7 Adult Soccer League on weekdays between 8-10 p.m. All of the balls clearing the fence landed in the parking lot at the Manhattan Senior Villas and did not cause any damage.

The 7 on 7 Adult Soccer games are "short sided" games played east to west. If the games were reoriented to play north to south, it may reduce the number of balls going over the fence. However, reorienting the field will significantly reduce the number of games played concurrently from three games to one. This would reduce the number of teams per season from 60 to 20.

The current height of the fence on the west side (facing the Manhattan Senior Villas) is 16 feet. One option for City Council consideration would be to install 25 foot poles with netting. Installation of a 25 foot net would have stopped all eight balls that cleared the current fence during the evaluation period. This fence netting would be installed along the west side of the field as a barrier between the field and the Senior Villas. The estimated cost for the poles/netting is \$80,000. The bid estimate was given by California Fence Company and includes twelve 8" galvanized poles with footings and 415 linear feet of netting.

As an alternative, an option for City Council's consideration would be to establish a reserve fund paid through the City's adult 7 on 7 Soccer League to pay claims submitted from Manhattan Senior Villas. All of the balls went over the fence during the 7 on 7 League which is played from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Last fiscal year, the 7 on 7 League generated approximately \$70,000 in net revenue.

In addition to the reserve fund proposal, staff will be providing a new form that will be given to the administration at Manhattan Senior Villas. These forms will include the process to submit claims including requesting detailed information for each incident. The new forms and process will allow the City to pinpoint the user group responsible for the damage and provide more comprehensive information to the City's third party administrator to more efficiently process the claim. Staff also distributed a letter to all adult soccer groups stating that they will be responsible for soccer balls going over the fence and will face serious disciplinary action, if needed.

CONCLUSION:

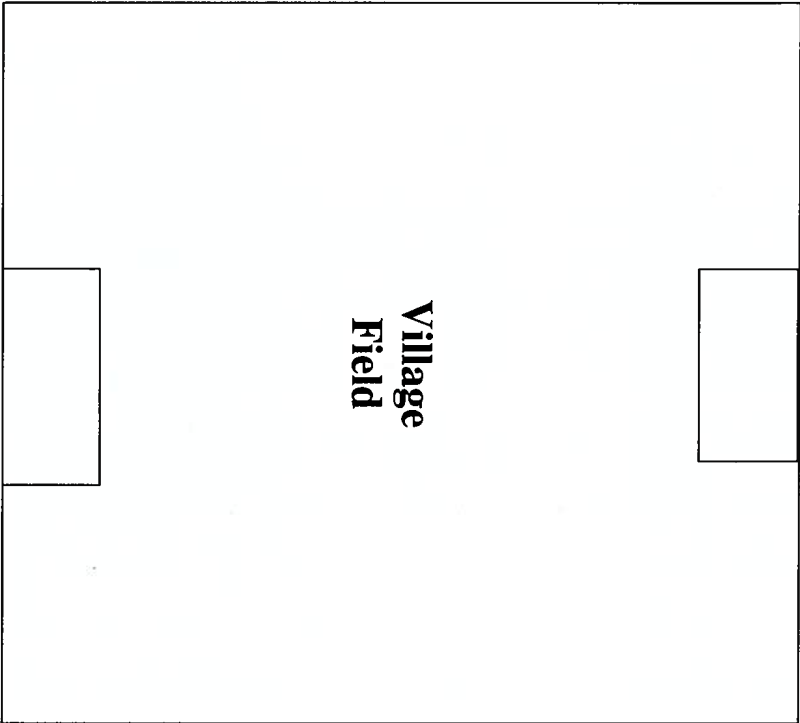
Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the issue of soccer balls being kicked over the fence into the Manhattan Senior Villas property and provide direction for a new fence to be installed at Manhattan Village Field or direct staff to create a fund from the net profit of the 7 on 7 Adult Soccer League to pay future claims.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Site map of Manhattan Village Field with the date and location of soccer balls going over the fence.

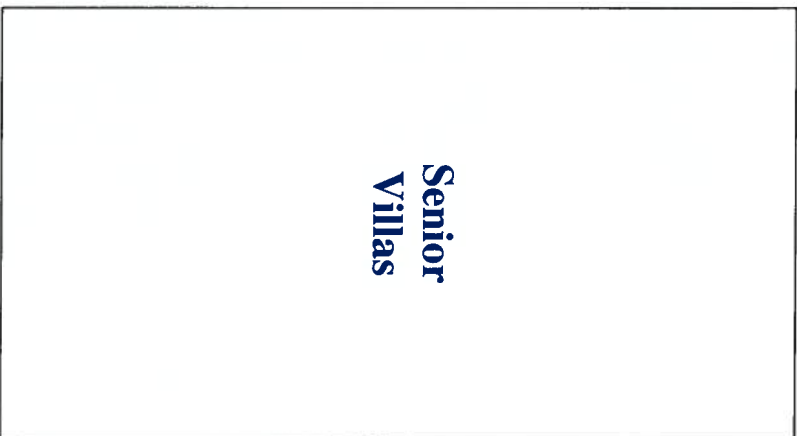
7 on 7 Adult soccer 3/16/10

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



**Village
Parking
Lot**

**Villas
Parking
Lot**

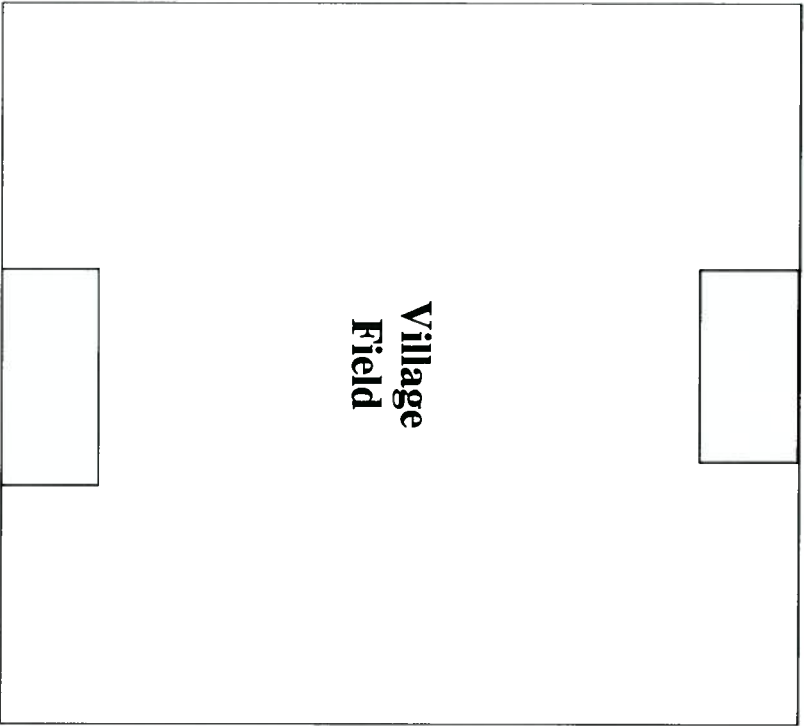


X

Key
X = Soccer Ball

7 on 7 soccer 3/24/10

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



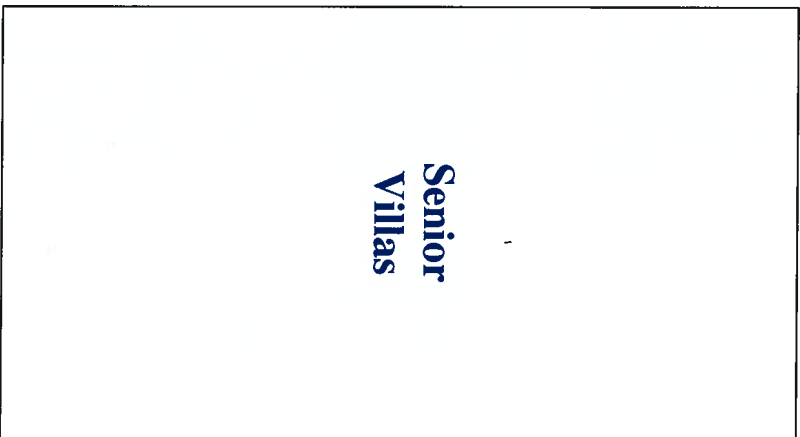
**Village
Field**

**Village
Parking
Lot**

**Villas
Parking
Lot**

X

**Senior
Villas**

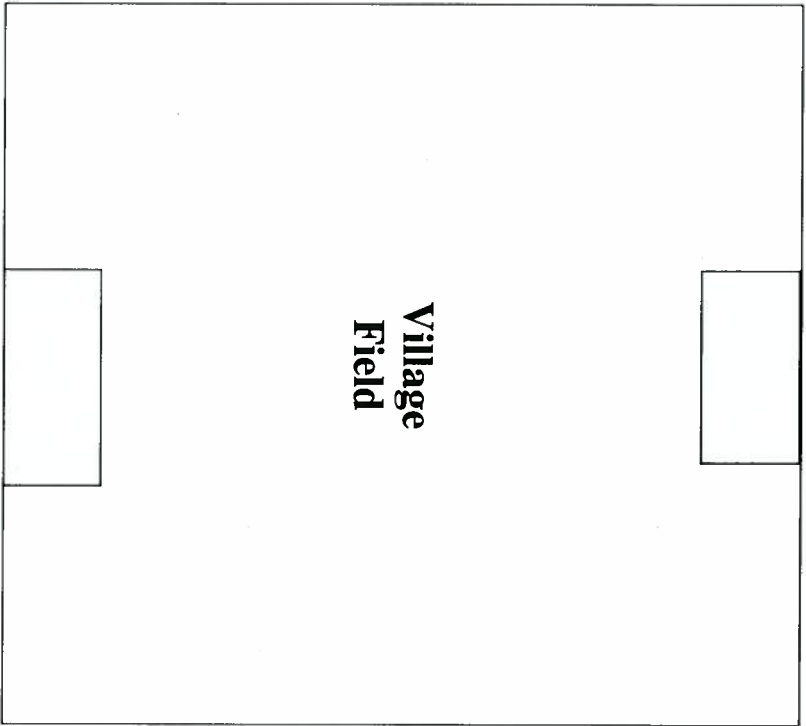


Key

X = Soccer Ball

7 on 7 soccer 3/25/10

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



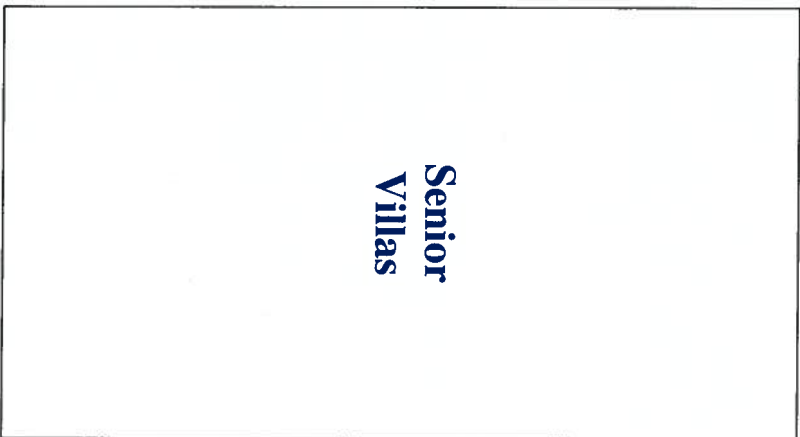
**Village
Field**

**Village
Parking
Lot**

**Villas
Parking
Lot**

X

**Senior
Villas**

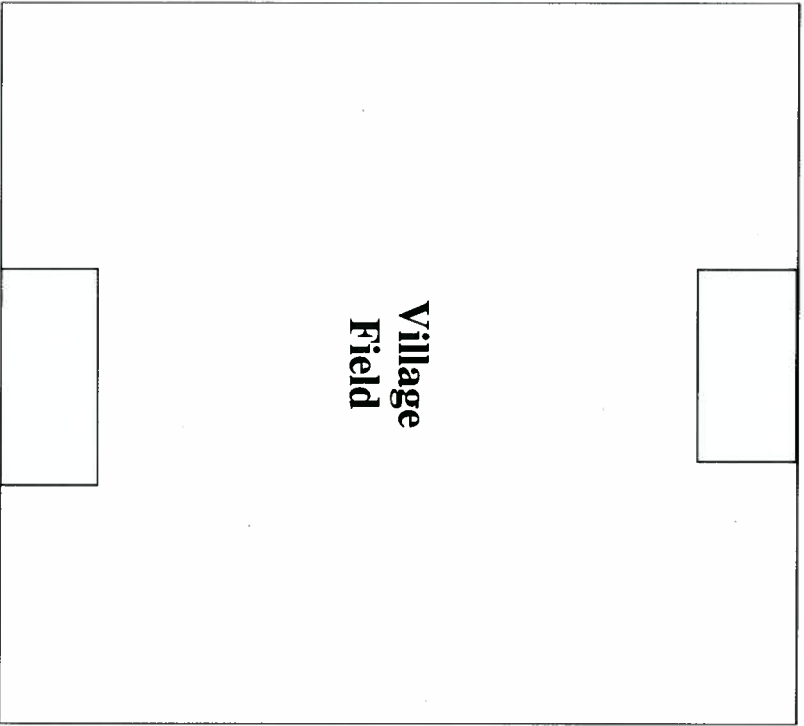


Key

X = Soccer Ball

3/29/10 7 on 7 Soccer

**Villas
Parking
Lot**

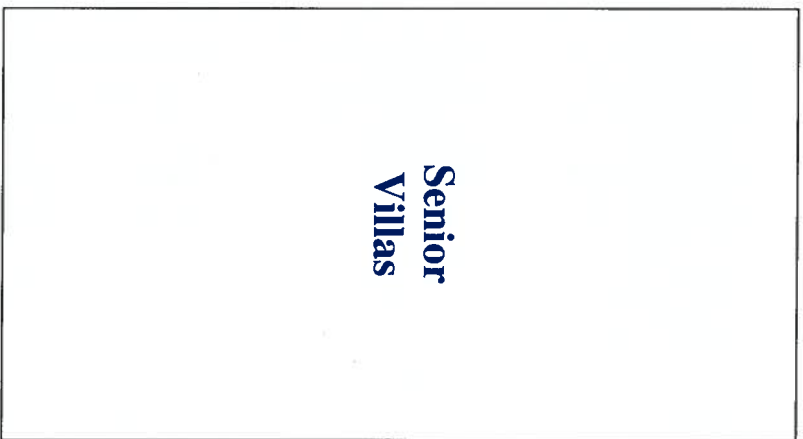


**Village
Parking
Lot**

**Villas
Parking
Lot**

X

**Senior
Villas**

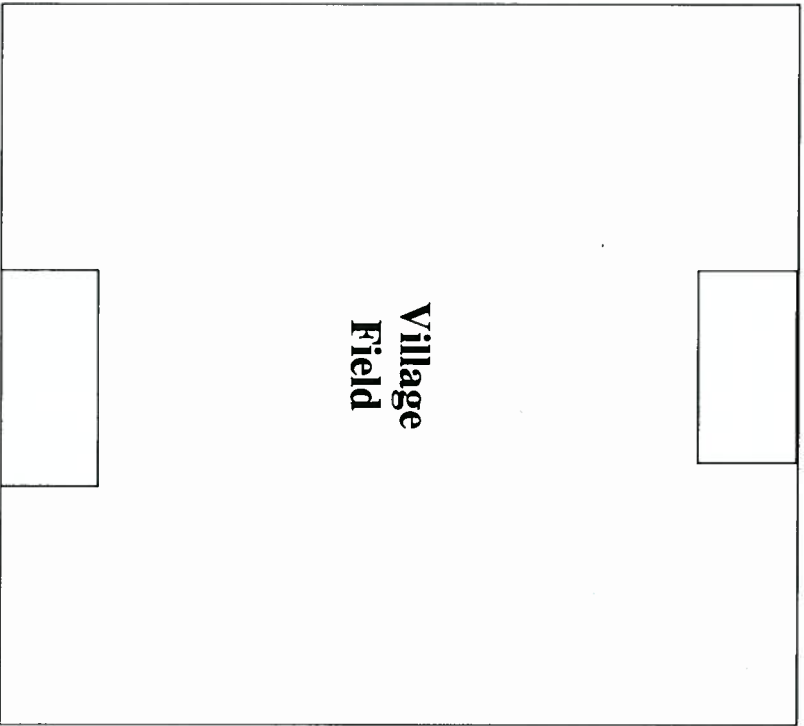


Key

X = Soccer Ball

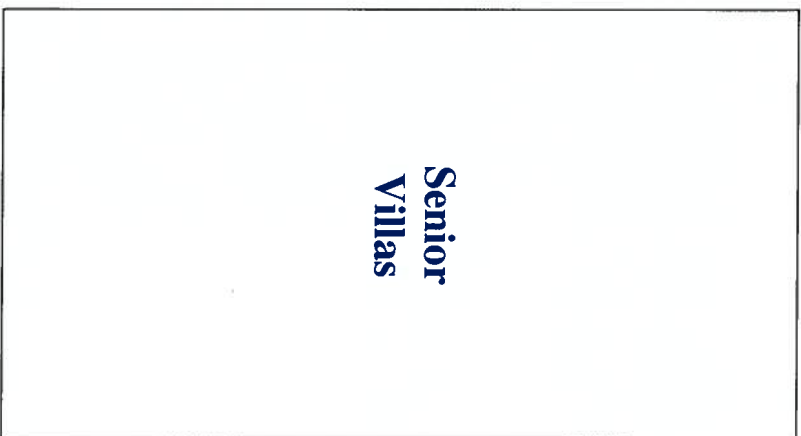
4/25 7 on 7 soccer

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



X

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



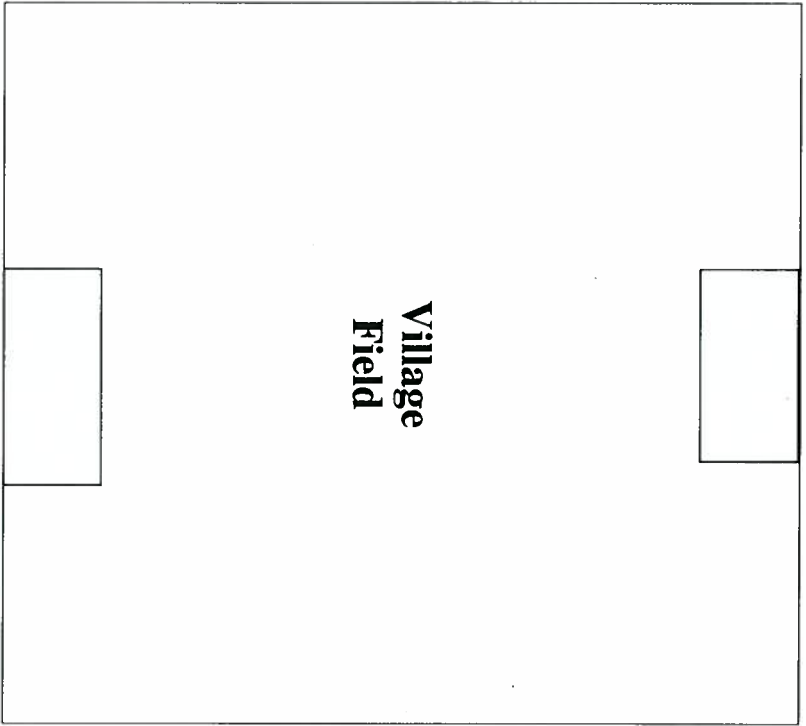
**Village
Parking
Lot**

Key

X = Soccer Ball

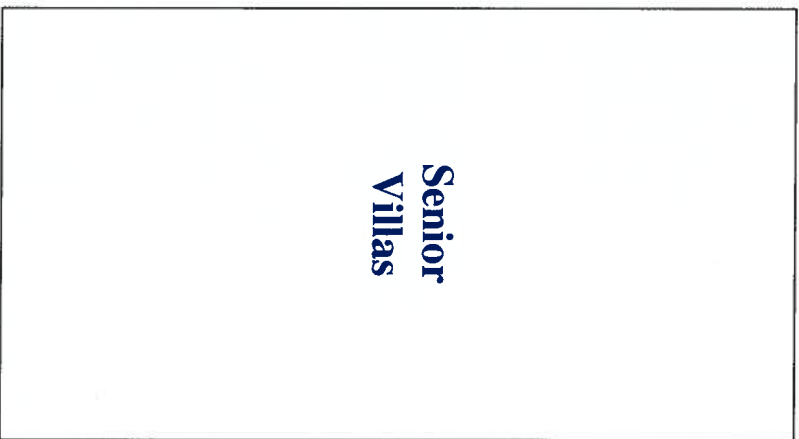
4/26 7 on 7 soccer

**Villas
Parking
Lot**



**Villas
Parking
Lot**

X X



**Village
Parking
Lot**

**Key
X = Soccer Ball**