



From The Desk Of
Stewart Bruckner
The La Habra Host Lions Club

4/6/2026

Re: Requested Status Of 2026 Corn Festival
To: Jim Sadro, Kim Albaria

Hi Jim and Kim,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Unfortunately, the future of the Corn Festival is in jeopardy. The rising costs associated with hosting the event have reached a point where they are no longer sustainable. As a fundraising effort for the La Habra Host Lions Club, the Corn Festival must remain financially viable; however, the Corn Festival Committee can no longer assure our Board that the event will not operate at a loss.

We believe that full collaboration with the City is essential for the festival's survival. If the City were interested in assuming leadership of the Corn Festival as a community event, the Lions would be open to transitioning that responsibility. We would remain committed partners - continuing to operate our traditional food booths, including funnel cakes, corn, hamburgers, and hot dogs - and assisting in any way possible with event logistics.

I want to be clear: the La Habra Host Lions Club cannot move forward with organizing another Corn Festival independently under the current circumstances. If a new path forward cannot be established, the festival will be canceled - an outcome we approach with heavy hearts.

Our commitment to La Habra remains unwavering. As always, where there is a need in our community, the La Habra Host Lions Club will be there to serve.

For additional context, I have included personal letters reflecting what the Corn Festival has meant to my family, along with a spreadsheet outlining 2025 financials and projected income for 2026.

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful consideration.



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The letter that follows is a message sent to me from my daughter Rachal on the week before the 2024 Corn Festival:

I grew up in La Habra, and for anyone who's been around this sweet little town for any length of time, you know all about the Corn Festival.

To some, this might just be a fun city event you go to for a few hours. But for me, it is so much more. It was a staple of my childhood summer; it was a weekend that was looked forward to all year! It's where our family got to spend evenings walking around listening to music, riding rides, and eating the best funnel cake, corn on the cob, and ice cream cones around, it's where my dad gave all of us kids little red tickets and we got to choose what rides we would go on and then we would head over to do the game of toss a ping pong ball into a fish bowl and win a goldfish! Now that I'm a little older I realize how much more fun winning that goldfish was for us than our parents.

I had the privilege of volunteering in the soft-serve ice cream booth for many summers with my Dad. It was really a family affair our family- and the Lions Club family - and while it was a lot of work, it was also so rewarding.

The very best part of this event was the time spent volunteering with the most important people in my life, making memories, laughing, and serving up ice cream cones to other families who had also grown up in La Habra and were now bringing back their own children to experience the Corn Festival.

I am now 44 years old, and I cannot recall growing up in La Habra without volunteering at the Corn Festival being a big part of some of my favorite memories. I would love to encourage anyone who has the opportunity to volunteer at this event to do so!! You will experience the community of La Habra coming together, you will get to know the many great men and women that make up the Lions Club, you will get to be a part of helping others experience the Corn Festival and have it be a part of their memories when they think of the great city of La Habra!



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My personal connection with the Corn Festival started in 1965 when my family relocated to La Habra, I was 8 years old and that summer I attended my first Corn Festival.

In the summer of 1974, my new girlfriend and I went on one of our early dates to the Corn Festival. We danced, rode the rides and ate corn and had a blast. As it turns out 52 years later, we're still dating and we just celebrated our 49th wedding anniversary. In 1985 we moved into our home which is right behind the park, ground central for the Corn Festival. In those days we were heavily involved in Boy Scouting, and so we would march in the parade and have a BBQ and party for the scouts and their families. After dinner, as a group, we would spend the evening at the Corn Festival. 10- years later I joined the Lions Club and for my family the Corn Festival became the largest event of Summer. I ran the Lions ice cream booth, and most of my family and friends would volunteer for the weekend to sell ice cream for the Lions. The Corn Festival has been a part of my family's summer for 61 Years.

There are so many stories like mine. The Corn Festival is woven into the fabric of La Habra history. What the Lions started as fundraiser has become a La Habra community event. When you hear people talk about the Corn Festival, they refer to it as The La Habra Corn Festival, and not as the La Habra Host Lions Corn Festival. This Is A True City Of La Habra Community Event.

I need to say, for those who don't know, The La Habra Host Lions Club is run completely by volunteers. Lion's members pay dues, which we jokingly say that we pay money to have the pleasure of volunteering to serve our community. We have no paid employees, all the proceeds raised by The La Habra Host Lions Foundation are returned to the community. The Lions Club has nothing to hide, and our books are open to the city anytime that they might want to sit down with us and examine them.

Last year's Corn Festival the city honored us as a Centennial Site waving all city use fees. The Lion did make money last year, but if we had paid the city fee The Lions would have lost money for a year of planning and well over a thousand service hours of Lions Time.

After 3 years of trying to have the festival on the street we are moving back to our home, El Centro Lions Park. This is an effort to reduce the street closure cost which will not be enough to save the Corn Festival.

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