

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

For over 75 years, public access and use of the track facilities at Burlingame High School in Burlingame, California was permitted at all hours ... except during school hours and school and privately permitted activities. About 15+ years ago, a local businessman, Pete Umland, donated a large sum of money to the high school and to the San Mateo Union High School District to erect outdoor lighting and enhance night-time use of the facilities.

Recently, citing safety and security issues, the San Mateo Union High School District Board announced that public access and use of all the San Mateo Union High School District stadiums, including the one at Burlingame High School, would be reduced beginning Monday, December 15, 2014.

According to their website, during the week, the facilities will open at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 pm. On weekends, due to available staffing, the stadiums would only be available "on high school and permit use". Reportedly, this action was taken in response to acts of vandalism and "a pattern of unwanted and suspicious behavior during the night".

**The problem is that, if any act of vandalism or any other problem occurs (which certainly can happen even when the tracks are closed), the same rationale can be used as an excuse to completely eliminate all public access and use of high school track facilities in San Mateo County, in the State of California, and in the United States ... irrespective of the fact that these facilities have been safely used by the public for decades ... and irrespective of the fact that these facilities are ultimately funded by the public.**

Please read "Some Reasons Why It Is Important" and, if you agree that it is important to allow public access and use of the Burlingame High School track facilities and/or any other San Mateo Union High School District track facilities at all times except during school hours and school and privately permitted activities, please email and express your objections to:

- Linda Lees Dwyer, President  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[ldwyer@smuhsd.org](mailto:ldwyer@smuhsd.org)
- Marc Friedman, Vice President  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[mfriedman@smuhsd.org](mailto:mfriedman@smuhsd.org)

- Stephen E. Rogers, Clerk  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[srogers@smuhsd.org](mailto:srogers@smuhsd.org)
- Robert H. Griffin, Trustee  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[rgriffin@smuhsd.org](mailto:rgriffin@smuhsd.org)
- Peter H. Hanley, Trustee  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[peterhanley@smuhsd.org](mailto:peterhanley@smuhsd.org)
- Scott Lawrence, Superintendent and Trustee  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[slawrence@smuhsd.org](mailto:slawrence@smuhsd.org)
- Linda Carlton, Facilities Manager  
San Mateo Union High School District Board  
[lcarlton@smuhsd.org](mailto:lcarlton@smuhsd.org)
- Michael Brownrigg, Mayor  
City of Burlingame  
[mbrownrigg@burlingame.org](mailto:mbrownrigg@burlingame.org)

Again, please email and express your objections to the foregoing people ... because we need your help and support to accomplish this for the good of the community.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Stein', with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the left and then curves back down towards the name.

Peter Stein  
[petergstein@msn.com](mailto:petergstein@msn.com)

## SOME REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

The following are some of the reasons why it is important to allow public access and use of the Burlingame High School track facilities and/or any other San Mateo Union High School District track facilities at all times except during school hours and school and privately permitted activities:

- The high school track facilities are ultimately public funded ... They serve the needs of the public and the community in many ways ... Prior to Monday, December 15, 2014, public access and use of these facilities was permitted at all hours ... except during school hours and school and privately permitted activities ... continuously for over 75 years.
- About 15+ years ago, a local businessman, Pete Umland, donated a large sum of money to the high school and to the San Mateo Union High School District to erect outdoor lighting and enhance night-time use of the facilities. His commitment, intentions, and donation (which was accepted) should be respected and honored.
- I and other members of the community have used the facilities for walking, jogging, training, fitness, and recreational activities. And community use of these facilities continues to increase over the years.
- The track is flat and walkers, joggers, and runners can avoid tripping and falling on the smooth surface ... Also, the track is soft and provides an excellent low impact surface for walkers, joggers, and runners.
- The high school tracks are well located and provide convenient, easy access for members of the community to use.
- The Burlingame High School track has special lighting, enhancing the facility and allowing members of the community to exercise any time during the night.
- People are able to exercise early in the morning and still be able to make long commutes to work ... At the same time, people are able to exercise in the evening after long days of work.

- People use the track and take advantage of using the smooth, soft surfaces, and lack of automobile track when recovering from knee, hip, or leg injuries.
- Sometimes, people have difficulty sleeping and they go to the track to exercise (After all, there is a reason why there are 24 hour fitness businesses. People exercise “around the clock”).
- Women are able to exercise at the track early in the morning before their families wake up and get ready to go to school or go to work.
- Women are able to walk and exercise at the track at night when their children are swimming at the aquatic center.
- Women are a lot safer walking, jogging, or running on a lit track at night rather than walking, jogging, or running on the dark streets of Burlingame or Hillsborough.
- Joggers, and runners of the community (young and old) are a lot safer using high school tracks as opposed to being on the street or sidewalks where there is a risk of being hit by cars ... Also, with fewer joggers and runners on the streets, there is less distraction for motorists.
- These facilities historically are a vehicle for members of the community beginning and/or embarking on a career of fitness and exercise. People who exercise are healthier and more productive. Their healthcare and medical expenses are generally lower than the norm. And the quality of their lives and the community where they live are greatly enhanced with exercise.
- Isolated incidents should not take precedence over “the common good” ... If a young child was kidnapped from one of the playgrounds in the City of Burlingame (and unfortunately, that can happen – children have been taken from their homes), all of the parks and playgrounds in Burlingame would surely not be closed as a result of that incident ... Isolated incidents should not take precedence over the needs of and benefits to the community.

- It totally makes sense that these facilities should be available for public use ... after school hours and activities ... since they are ultimately funded by the public.
- If any act of vandalism or any other problem occurs (which certainly can happen even when the tracks are closed), the same rationale can be used as an excuse to completely eliminate all public access and use of high school track facilities in San Mateo County, in the State of California, and in the United States ... irrespective of the fact that these facilities have been safely used by the public for decades ... and irrespective of the fact that these facilities are ultimately funded by the public ... That is simply not right.

I recognize that the foregoing is not all-inclusive. If you have any other thoughts, please forward them to me. And I will make sure that they are communicated to the appropriate parties.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Stein', enclosed within a hand-drawn triangular border.

Peter Stein

[petergstein@msn.com](mailto:petergstein@msn.com)