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To <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>

cc

Subject Please add this to the public comment at tonight's City Council hearing regarding The All American Melodrama

H-2
10-21-08

Honorable Members of the Long Beach City Council,

I am a resident of a neighboring community, Redondo Beach, and am unable to attend tonight's meeting because I must attend a hearing at our local Council. Therefore, I am writing to sing the praises of **The All American Melodrama**. I hope the Long Beach City Council will hear the harmony and grant this wonderful business permission to continue drawing my family to Shoreline Village each week.

We greatly enjoy this unique brand of family entertainment, but previously hadn't found it any closer than Oceana in northern California. When we heard that **Ken Parks** planned to open The All American Melodrama in easy commuting distance from our home we couldn't wait to see the first show. Over the past couple of years we have come to trust Mr. Parks' productions to provide great fun for the whole family, in any venue on any subject. In our experience, Ken Parks' shows are hilarious, and always appropriate to the audience, never crossing a line that would offend or embarrass anyone in the party.

That first show, *The Drunkard*, and the music and comedy olio that followed, exceeded even our high expectations. Ken Parks and company are exceptionally talented actors and comedians. So talented that I found myself laughing so hard I had to hold onto the table just to keep from falling over. (Although the Melodrama is licensed to serve beer and wine, my family is all teetotalers so the hilarity came from the performance, not the choice of beverage.) The second show, *Bedlam at the Ballpark or Field of Schemes*, was even more entertaining and the "Extra Innings" song and comedy routines combined the classic with freshly hilarious performances. We came back to see this several times and each time found something new to love about these shows. We eagerly await the opportunity to see the next shows, *Drac in the Saddle Again or You're So Vein*, and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told, and Then Some!*, because they look promising to continue this line of winning family entertainment.

Then there is the Friday night improv comedy. This is developing its own devotees. Each week, **Dawn Stahlak**, Ken Parks' colleague in this business, directs a show that miraculously manages to draw and entertain young college students on their Friday night celebrations while still maintaining a high standard of good taste for the more mature audience members. Every time we attend the show, we leave energized from laughing the week's tensions away.

I hope this information assists the Council in deciding to permit The All American Melodrama to continue providing entertainment that brings families together to share a good time in Long Beach.

Truly yours,
Hillary Kelley
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Redondo Beach, CA