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Dear Councilwoman Lowenthal

It has come to my attention that the business under the DBA of 4th St Vine is in danger of having their entertainment permit not issued due to various complaints from residents. This would be a tragedy. The City of Long Beach is already notorious among musicians for having unfriendly policies that force many musicians to perform in places that should not hold shows such as houses, apartments, warehouses, etc. As a musician with a Bachelors in Music Performance in Bassoon from Cal State Long Beach, a member of the Long Beach Music Council and a musician who plays in various bands, I can attest to this being the case.

There is a silent majority of people who live in Long Beach and frequent venues such as 4th St Vine and pump money into the local economy by doing so. These people are not as savvy in the ways of city hall and are not used to having to complain to get things done. These people would feel the blow of 4th St Vine not being able to hold live entertainment.

The music scene in Long Beach is already struggling and a blow like this could convince many musicians that it is not worth it to try and base their musical group and do their musical business in Long Beach. I personally know many musicians who feel this way already, who live in Long Beach and play elsewhere.

We have precious few music venues in our city, especially compared to any other city of our size. Taking away one of these venues would not do anything to help the music scene that is pumping money into our economy with no help from established municipal codes, especially when that venue is willing to comply with extra conditions being attached to the already stifling conditions it is currently operating entertainment under.

Please allow 4th St Vine to continue to have live music. In addition, I would like you to reflect on the current policies regarding entertainment and understand that they are hurting local musicians in particular and hurting our economy in general. Thank you for your time.

Mark Delgado