

June 4, 2007

The Honorable Helen K. Baumann  
Second District Supervisor  
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane, Bldg A  
Placerville, California 95667

Dear Supervisor Bauman,

I am writing to respectfully request the board reconsider its decision to wave the Use Permit fees for the Olde Coloma Theatre. Forgive me if I offend anyone but I find it shameful that we could wave service fee cost covering county employee time one week yet in the following weeks set in motion the layoff of 17+ county employees for lack of funds. Employees who may be assigned to this application, employees who have families with children to feed, clothe and shelter. I realize that these fees would not solve the counties budget problems but I doubt those employees who may be subject to layoff would see it that way.

The theatre has the means to pay the fees. The theatre is a business, they charge for a service like most other business in this County. It is time they were dealt with as a business, a business like all other business in the county not a victim. Time and time again theatre personnel bow their head in front of you saying "we are a non-profit" as though to lead one to believe there is no monies in the business when in fact that is far from the truth. The theatre chose becomes non-profit after several years of operation. No one forced them to do so; they became non-profit for monetary benefits, no taxes, no business license fees, income tax credits/benefits etc. No they are a business and should be treated as one. Can anyone site what findings were used to allow a business to operate without the required permits? Will other applicants be granted the same opportunity?

The theatre has for several years now methodically expanded their business day by day month by month to the point where they have become so self centered that there only thoughts are the theatre, theatre, theatre and the needs of the local community and citizens about have been ignored or threatened. It is clearly evident that the theatre has grown beyond the ability of their existing facilities and the local area to support their growing needs.

Most business plan for future expansions, however if one were to open mindedly look at the theatre operation you will clearly see that through out the years they have failed to plan for future needs, not once. In fact they blame others for their problems, no Use Permit, they blame El Dorado County. When they lost their parking, they blamed the locals. Who else is to be blamed? Now they ask that the County again look the other way, yes, look the other way. If Mr. Noble, by his own statement, had not taken the law into his own hands, as an employee, who based upon ordinance had no authority to wave a Use Permit; the situation today may be somewhat simpler.

I have been a Building Official and Zoning Administrator for just shy of thirty years. Although I now provide services to governmental entities as a private contractor I can say this is a first for me.

Again I respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to wave any county fees for this application.

Jerry Griffin  
530 Cold Springs Rd.

Cc: Supervisor Rusty Dupray  
Supervisor Ron Briggs  
Supervisor James R. Sweeney  
Supervisor Norma Santiago