

Date Presented to Council: 8/8/2022  
 Verified By: *[Signature]*  
 Clerk's Note: N/A

**City of Wasilla  
 Informational Memorandum No. 22-09**

Public Comments Presented To The Mayor And Council Regarding The Use Of The Menard Center By AK Entertainment, LLC.

Originator: Benji Johnson, Administrative Aide to the City Clerk  
 Date: 7/28/2022

Agenda of: 8/8/2022

Route to:	Department Head	Signature	Date
X	Chief of Police	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/2/22
X	Recreational Services Director	<i>[Signature]</i>	8-1-22
X	Finance Director	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/1/2022
X	Deputy Administrator	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/1/2022
X	City Clerk	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/1/2022
X	Mayor	<i>[Signature]</i>	8/1/22

**Attachments:** Public Comments (8 pages)

**Summary Statement:** Attached are public comments received in the Clerk's Office as of Friday, July 29, 2022, regarding the use of the Menard Center by AK Entertainment, LLC.

CITY OF

WASILLA

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

*www.cityofwasilla.com*

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TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: City Clerk's Office  
DATE: July 25, 2022  
RE: **Note to File – Friday Night Fights at the Menard**

Attached please find four public comments regarding Friday Night Fights at the Menard submitted to our office as of 5:40 p.m., today, July 25, 2022.

**Sarah Stanifer**

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**From:** City of Wasilla, AK <webmaster@cityofwasilla.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 23, 2022 10:19 PM  
**To:** clerk  
**Subject:** Friday night fights at the Menard center.

Distributed to Mayor and City Council Members  
on 07/25/22 BY Sarah

Message submitted from the <City of Wasilla, AK> website.

**Site Visitor Name:** Noel Lowe  
**Site Visitor Email:** Noelloweak@gmail.com

Please submit my comments in this email to all council members for the meeting on Monday night.

I'm writing this letter in support of the fights and Billy and Heather Christiansen. I regularly attend and or send customers and staff to these events. They a much needed form of entertainment and are always fun for my family and friends. I hope the city will renew their contract for another season. I have experienced professional gate and alcohol control by Billy's staff when I attended. I know the fighters and fans are looking forward to another successful season.

Sincerely  
Noel Lowe

## Sarah Stanifer

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**From:** Atlantis Yancey <misssunshinealaska@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 5:21 PM  
**To:** clerk  
**Subject:** Local fight night at the menard center

To the Wasilla City Council and whomever else it may concern:

I have been informed that the City of Wasilla is not wanting to allow our local fight night at the Menard Center.

That fight night being in town brings in revenue to folks with families all over the valley. I have been the main cocktail waitress for 3 seasons now and looking forward to my 4th season. We have a large variety of folks that come to our events. Everyone from couples out for the night to families there to support the fighters that they know to many other random folks from varied backgrounds and even other towns. These events are looked forward to by several hundred people.

The fighters are mostly local. We are one giant family of fighters and staff; all of whom volunteer their time to make these events happen.

We rarely have drama that is not "staged drama".

We pay attention to our patrons and our staff.

Children are always w parents and guardians.

Drama gets escorted out, just as with any venue.

Just as with any other venue, sometimes folks from other walks of life don't see eye to eye. That's to be expected anywhere, all the way to a park or the lake or a river.

We as a work family all take care of whatever needs to be done to keep our events safe and fun for all.

I believe that if the City of Wasilla chooses to remove the local fight night from the venue of the menard center ( of which we have been operating out of for 11 Years. )that move Will hurt our economy.

Money not going into local folks pockets. Some folks keep themselves busy instead of in trouble by putting so much time and effort of themselves to be involved. Excited patrons; years local and new local, that look forward to the One Event the Valley has locally. We have nothing but bars for our night life loving adults.

I am a single mom who busts her ass working everywhere in this town. This is one of 4 jobs for me. The City of Wasilla will literally be hurting my income and income-making ability, from something that is long term for me. This helps pay my outrageous utilities in the winter.

I would love the option of speaking on this publicly but I am at this very moment taking a break from one of my many jobs to type this out since I cannot leave them in a crunch like that.

I absolutely have an opinion on this and find it complete crap that the City of Wasilla has chosen to do this. I have attended the local fights since I was 21. I've supported 75% of the local fighters ; all whom have been family, friends,

brothers, coworkers, other people from the valley. I have made friends and connections at the fights; as a patrons and as staff.

You take this from us, you are hurting the local economy. Period.

To think, this is just what one single working mom has to say about it.

If anyone has any questions or would like me to go into further depth on why Not to take our venue, by all means, feel free to reach out to me at 9075214692.

Sincerely and truly,  
Atlantis (Yancey) McFadden  
9075214692

P.s. my father who is a fellow local patron to all our fight nights said that just cuz some scooter trash rolled through doesn't mean yall should take our venue. That it is uncalled for and discrimination as well.

Thanks for your time to read what a local has to say.

-Atlantis-

**Sarah Stanifer**

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**From:** Stuart Graham  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 5:31 PM  
**To:** clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lforge Jewelers <lforgejewelers@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 25, 2022 at 4:14:30 PM AKDT  
**To:** Timothy Johnson <tjohnson@cityofwasilla.gov>, Stuart Graham <sgraham@cityofwasilla.gov>, Akentertainment1@live.com

## **LFORGE Jewelers**

500 N Main Street  
Ste C  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
(907) 232-9866

*To who it might concern, my name is Corey Brassard, and I am the owner of LFORGE Jewelers in Wasilla. I'm writing in regards to my support of AK Entertainment sports production and their continued use of the Menard Sports Complex.*

*This sporting event has become a staple of entertainment for the Valley, but it means so much more to our wonderful community. At its core it's a fighting event, but its so much more than that. Its an opportunity for people to get together as a community. It's a chance for young athletes to put their skills and training to use. It's a chance for businesses to advertise and get their name out to the community. But all of that is still only a small part of AK Entertainments community involvement. Billy promotes civility and sportsmanship like no one I've ever seen. To watch 2 combatants, go at it for the win, and then embrace in handshakes and hugs is something that this community and world needs very much. Billy has taken young folks that are down on their luck, struggling with substance abuse and offered them a path to turn their lives around. His commitment as a mentor goes even deeper with the split the pot raffle held at each fight, where the proceeds go to helping the community (where most winners of the pot donate their half as well).*

*I've been involved with Billy and AK Entertainment for over 8 years, both as a fight fan and through sponsorship and advertising. I do it because I appreciate the benefit to the community, and respect for Billy and his tireless efforts to help those in need.*

*Our Menard Sports Complex was built as a community center for sporting events, car shows, craft and bizarre shows, political events, and so much more as a community center for the valley. It only seems fitting that the Menard continue to facilitate AK Entertainments fighting events, as that's what it was built for, and it's the only facility large enough to house the ever-growing fighting events.*

*In conclusion, I support Billy Christensen and AK Entertainments continued use of the Menard Sports Complex. This event is very important to the community, especially one recovering post COVID, where people of the community need every chance possible to get together.*

*Corey Brassard*

## Sarah Stanifer

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**From:** Stuart Graham  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2022 5:32 PM  
**To:** clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Menard center

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

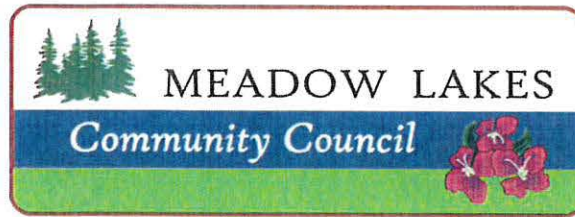
**From:** Ramona <rmnchristensen@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 25, 2022 at 4:14:07 PM AKDT  
**To:** Stuart Graham <sgraham@cityofwasilla.gov>  
**Subject:** Menard center

Hello, my name is Ramona Christensen Scott, I am writing this letter in support of William and Heather Christensen continuing with AK sports at the Curtis Menard Center. It is my understanding the Menard Center was built to host the citizens of the Mat Su Valley. William and Heather are responsible individuals who host the boxing events in the valley. They are responsible in all they do. The valley/Wasilla needs the AK sports to continue in the Menard Center as they run throughout the winter getting folks out on the darkest of days. William teaches young men how to box, not to promote violence but to develop their self esteem leading to healthy adults. William Christensen is a family man working hard not only for his family but the people of Wasilla. He is personable, responsible and would not do anything to compromise his values or his passion for the art of boxing. I am asking you to consider the continuation of the Menard Center, should the issues revolve around conflicts in scheduling I'm certain this could and should be ironed out, not only for William but for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Sincerely  
Ramona Christensen  
907-671-0276

Sent from my iPad





1210 N Kim Drive, Suite B, Meadow Lakes, Alaska 99623  
Phone: 907-232-2845 - Website: www.mlccak.org

Greetings Mayor Ledford and Wasilla City Council members,

For the past 6 years, Meadow Lakes Community Council's (MLCC) Gaming Committee has had the privilege of operating a "Split-the- Pot" raffle game as a part of the entertainment at the Alaska Combat Entertainment event (Formerly AK Tuesday Night Fights). This show has provided for the bulk of MLCC's Gaming Permit Revenue. As part of our Gaming Permit stipulations, MLCC donates a portion of Gaming proceeds to other non-profits that benefit area residents. Some of the organizations MLCC donates to provide beneficial service to Wasilla City Residents as well. These organizations include, Wasilla Area Seniors, Kids Don't Float (Rotary), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Kids Cupboard, and Family Promise, just to name a few.

Over the years of being involved in AK Entertainment's "Alaska Combat Entertainment" (A.C.E.) show as MLCC's Gaming Permit Project Manager, and as an event volunteer, I have noticed how much the Gaming Committee Members and volunteers enjoy participating in the show as they operate the split the pot game. Some of these Gaming Committee Members are "Super-Volunteers", and I imagine the possible loss of this opportunity would be only slightly less disappointing than it would be to some of the patrons who are enjoying their only evening of entertainment for the month.

Meadow Lakes Community Council implores the City of Wasilla, to allow for the continued lease of the Menard Sports Complex turf field, to AK Entertainment, so that the excellent A.C.E. show can be enjoyed by Wasilla Residents and visitors, in an equally excellent venue.

Respectfully,

Ariel Cannon, MLCC Gaming Committee Chair

Gaming Committee Members:

Camden Yehle

Trish Jacob

Sherri Rusher

Julie Starr

Terry Boyle

2022 volunteers: Tina and Julie

Rec. 7/25/2022 7:20pm JN

Distributed to Mayor and City Council Members  
on 7/26/2022 By JN

- email