



STATE OF FLORIDA

JAMES UTHMEIER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 7, 2025

Pensacola City Council
222 West Main Street
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Dear Pensacola City Council Members:

Pensacola boasts a special place in Florida's history and heritage. The gateway to the Gulf Coast and the cradle of naval aviation, it has long been a standard bearer of North Florida values. But recently, Pensacola has made the news for all the wrong reasons. I've learned that Pensacola's Saenger Theatre will be hosting "A Drag Queen Christmas" on December 23 this year. This annual drag show openly mocks one of the most sacred holidays in the Christian faith. It has been referred to as part of the "Naughty Tour," where men masquerading as women claim to put the "Ho Ho Ho Into The Holidays."¹ A previous production featured a male performer boasting the stage name "Trinity 'The Tuck' Taylor"—a not-so-subtle stab at *the* fundamental doctrine of Christianity.² This year's show includes a male performer known as the "Demon Queen of Seattle," lauded for his "demon inspired, kink-positive" costume.³ One male performer known as "Suzie Toot" is referred to as the "demonic Betty Bop."⁴ And another known as "Crystal Methyd" dresses up as the devil to make satanic imagery "glamorous and beautiful."⁵ Curtains up on this openly anti-Christian show at the Saenger Theatre will occur just two days before Christmas. What's more, it will be playing in the middle of downtown at the same time as Pensacola's family-friendly Winterfest. So, while Pensacola children are taking pictures with Santa, men dressed as garish women in demonic costumes will be engaged in obscene behavior mere feet away.

Saenger Theatre is owned by the City of Pensacola but managed by Legends Global, to whom the City pays \$150,000 each year.⁶ Paragraph 2.6(a) of the management agreement between the City and the management company provides that the City reserves the right to "review and

¹ MP Present, *Jimbo Is Putting The Ho Ho Ho Into The Holidays At A Drag Queen Christmas*, October 13, 2023, youtube.com/watch?v=9n1ArU7_5V4.

² Matthew Moyer, *Orlando's Trinity the Tuck comes home for the holidays to host a 'Drag Queen Christmas'*, December 22, 2021, orlandoweekly.com/arts/orlandos-trinity-the-tuck-comes-home-for-the-holidays-to-host-a-drag-queen-christmas-30510141-2/.

³ Stephanie Hammett, *'Seattle's Demon Queen': Bosco is slaying the runway and challenges on season 14 of 'RuPaul's Drag Race'*, February 20, 2022, spokesman.com/stories/2022/feb/20/seattles-demon-queen-bosco-is-currently-slaying-th/.

⁴ Troy Hallahan, *Suzie Toot's demonic Betty Bop beat*, linkedin.com/posts/troyhallahan_thank-you-vogue-for-featuring-my-image-of-activity-7292608675830001664-XS2p/ (last visited Oct. 16, 2025).

⁵ Phylicia JL Munn, *Crystal Methyd*, pbs.twimg.com/media/FxkI17CaMAAOsYL?format=jpg&name=large (last visited Oct. 16, 2025).

⁶ Florida DOGE has correctly identified this as wasteful spending.

approve the kind and quality of events ... [and] users of the [theatre].”⁷ Paragraph 2.1(b) provides that the management company shall have “exclusive authority over the day-to-day operation of the [theatre] and all activities therein” “provided that [the management company] shall follow all policies and guidelines of the City hereafter established or modified by the City that the City notifies [the management company] in writing are applicable to the [theatre].”⁸ The City has apparently interpreted its review and approval authority as “tied to policies or guidelines that are *formally established* and communicated *in advance* to [the management company].”⁹ But the City has stated that it would “consider exercising its reserved authority if it were determined that a proposed event would be injurious to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the community.”¹⁰ In its own words, “the City does not find that the scheduled event presents such a risk.”¹¹

There are several issues with the City’s position. First, the management company’s exclusive authority as outlined in paragraph 2.1(b) does not supersede the City’s editorial control as provided in paragraph 2.6(a)—the two provisions must be read to harmonize with one another.¹² When read correctly together, the agreement places no conditions on the City’s review and approval authority.

Second, even assuming that 2.1(b) somehow restricts the City’s review and approval authority, the language of the provision does not comport with the City’s interpretation. Policies “hereafter” established most reasonably mean those policies established *after* the ratification of the contract, which would encompass the City’s disapproval of the drag show regardless of the date of booking. Nowhere in the contract does it require the City to “formally” establish these policies either, so the City could send a written communication today cancelling the show and it would entirely comport with the agreement’s terms.

Third, the City admits—irrespective of the agreement’s terms—it can exercise editorial control when a proposed event is “injurious to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the community.” Yet, at odds with the City’s stated rationale for refusing to cancel the drag show, there is no record of this “general welfare” policy ever being “formally” established and communicated “in advance” to the management company. The City cannot claim its hands are tied due to the agreement, while also claiming that it could, if it chose, cancel other events it deemed injurious to the community. The logic doesn’t add up. And it shows that the City believes it can, but lacks the will, to cancel this event.

Finally, I agree that the City can cancel the event under the sole basis it has articulated—that the “event would be injurious to the public health, safety, or general welfare of the community.” There’s no question this event meets that standard. As seen by the public outrage at recent city council meetings and online, Pensacola residents categorically reject this show’s content as a threat to the moral fabric and general welfare of the community. And given this obscene event’s proximity to Pensacola’s children enjoying Winterfest, the show poses pronounced threats to the

⁷ Management Agreement between the City of Pensacola, Florida and SMG (now Legends Global) § 2.6 (Oct. 1, 2004).

⁸ *Id.* § 2.1.

⁹ Email from Kia Goldsmith, Deputy City Attorney, to Amy Miller, Interim City Administrator (Sept. 4, 2025, 9:08 AM) (emphasis added) (obtained through public records request).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

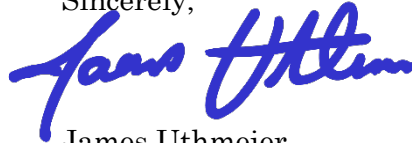
¹² *Mastrobuono v. Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc.*, 514 U.S. 52, 63 (1995) (explaining that “a document should be read to give effect to all its provisions and to render them consistent with each other.”); *see also* Antonin Scalia and Bryan A. Garner, *Reading Law: The Interpretation of Legal Texts*, 168 (2012) (“[S]tatutory construction is a ‘holistic endeavor,’ and the same is true of construing *any document*.”) (emphasis added).

health, safety, and welfare of children. Contrary to the City's stated position to date, the terms of the contract provide the City unfettered discretion to review and approve content shown at the theatre. So there is no threat of a meaningful First Amendment challenge to the show's cancellation.

While the First Amendment safeguards freedom of expression, it does not require a city to platform and endorse disgusting, obscene content that denigrates its residents' religious beliefs. Permitting a drag show at a city-owned theatre that openly disparages Christian beliefs is not only an affront to your Christian residents, but it may subject the City to further legal scrutiny. Such city-sanctioned religious mockery may amount to religious discrimination.¹³ It likewise could constitute a public nuisance.¹⁴ And were any of these deranged performers to expose themselves to the kids innocently enjoying Christmas festivities near the Saenger Theatre, the City could share in liability resulting from charges of obscenity¹⁵ or lewd or lascivious exhibition.¹⁶

The risks are too significant, the outcry too pronounced, and the solution too apparent. You can—and you should—cancel this obscene, anti-religious drag show. The show's content is designed to inflame religious strife, its timing is intentional, and its proximity to children is unacceptably problematic. Failure to stop this sacrilege and misuse of public funds raises serious concerns about the city's stewardship of public property. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,



James Uthmeier
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Cc: Mayor D.C. Reeves

¹³ Fla. Const. art. I, §§ 2–3; § 760.01(2), Fla. Stat.

¹⁴ §§ 823.01, 823.05(1), Fla. Stat.

¹⁵ § 847.011(4), Fla. Stat.

¹⁶ § 800.04(7), Fla. Stat.