



June 16, 2022

Dear Friends of the Deaf Community,

As you know, the Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf (LAAD) is a small nonprofit organization with the mission of maintaining a gathering, meeting, and social space for members of our local community, including our Deaf community. We are proud to have been able to do just that for the last 51 years.

I am writing this letter to express the Board of Directors' deep concern about the current state of our financial affairs, *which threaten the very existence of our organization and the services we provide.*

For over 30 years, we have been operating charitable gaming (Bingo) as our primary means of income to support our facilities and activities for our Deaf community. Additionally, we rent out our facilities as a venue for corporate or private functions. Because of the pandemic and economic stresses, our charitable gaming operations and facility rentals are not producing the income they have for decades and we find ourselves in a financial crisis.

The Deaf community owns the buildings and services that LAAD operates, making it the very LAST standing Deaf Club with such facilities in Louisiana. In an attempt to save our unique and much needed organization, the Board of Directors has decided to initiate the restructuring of our organization and property. Because this process will take several weeks, *we are in grave danger of having to shut down our gaming operations and lay off 15 hard-working people.*

The ongoing construction in front of our property, in which the city is adding a roundabout and a new direct access road to Interstate 10, will ultimately bring more traffic to our facility. To capitalize on this increased traffic, however, we desperately need to purchase a sign to promote our venue and/or events. Additionally, we have several financial obligations coming due, including a significant property insurance premium of over \$8,000. We do not know if we will be able to meet our current financial obligations due to the continued volatility of our gaming sessions.

Deaf Clubs all over the country are dying and we refuse to join their ranks. The LAAD building is more than just a building. We built this place to be our safe space, our barrier-free space; this is our home. **We ask you to recognize the importance of the space we have created and consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our general fund. We are a federally recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. EIN #72-0989485.**

Donations can be sent to us at this mailing address:

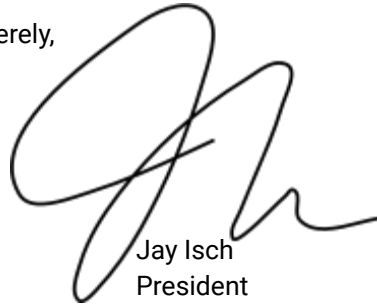
**Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf or LAAD**  
**200 Rue du Belier**  
**Lafayette, LA 70506**

We also have a gofundme campaign where you can contribute as well:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/KeepLAADopen>

For more information about Lafayette Athletic Association of the Deaf, please check out our Facebook page, **LAAD**, or our website at [www.laad.net](http://www.laad.net).

Thank you in advance for any contribution you can make to assure the survival of LAAD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Isch', written in a cursive style.

Jay Isch  
President  
LAAD Board of Directors