



July 21, 2021

Mr. Jay Boodheshwar
Deputy Town Manager
Town of Palm Beach
360 South County Road
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear Jay,

Gaye and I hope that you, Anne and the girls are healthy and well. We are both doing fine and looking forward to another great year in Palm Beach. As you may know, we are involved with fundraising for the Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) which is the oldest and largest statewide organization devoted to helping children and families and has held a presence in Palm Beach County since 1965. We represent CHS regarding a matter (outlined below) not only as residents of Palm Beach, but as the fundraiser's Honorary Chairmen, with support from both the General Chairmen, John Tatooles and Victor Moore, and the organization's Board of Directors.

We come to you now with a humble and heartfelt request. On behalf of CHS, we respectfully request that the Palm Beach Town Council grant CHS a one-time waiver of the two-event limit. The permit in question is related to CHS's Ultimate Dinner Party (UDP) fundraiser. Traditionally held the week prior to Thanksgiving, UDP was inceptioned in 1992 and is the organization's most notable fundraiser, raising critical funds for the County's only adoption program dedicated to children in foster care. Last year, CHS found forever homes for more than 200 children. Their adoption by loving families will forever change their lives.

It is not CHS's intention to hold a third event. The intention is to return to its regular fundraising schedule by holding UDP in November again as it has for 27 years prior. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CHS held no events in the 2020 calendar year and was required to move its annual UDP event scheduled for November 2020 to February 2021. Event attendance was purposely and significantly scaled down in an effort to follow CDC guidelines. As a result, a majority of UDP's regular patrons were unable to offer their support or attend the event. Moving forward, rescheduling UDP for a later time in the season is not possible as the event's success relies on a partnership with the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Culinary Federation, who is only able to provide chefs in the off season. They were only able to accommodate this last season's one time schedule change as only two chefs were needed, as opposed to the 12 typically used. We do not have the option to hold our event again outside of November while maintaining this crucial partnership. The alternative of canceling altogether would be detrimental in CHS's efforts to effectively serve our local children and families.

Thank you for considering our request, and please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter further.

Our Warmest Regards,

Jim and Gaye Engel
Ultimate Dinner Party Honorary Chairmen

Board of Directors

Dr. Daniel J. Brennan

Kenneth Clein

Amy Connelly

Dorian Daggs

Vincent D'Aria

Jett Heukensfeld

Fred Kempel

David Light

Jason Peters

Roni Puleo

Mickey Wells

Regional Executive Director

Charles Scherer

Children's Home Society of Florida

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