

2/26/22 Email Re Sound Ordinance

Note: statements in italics are either gentle edits or remarks added by CityPAC.

Sounds like (I couldn't resist) Fournier is suggesting they could move to an audible sound from x distance rule rather than a specific decibel limit. He also suggests amplified vs other type of sound need not be distinguished if it is based on audible at x distance, and that indoor vs outdoor sound sources could be treated differently.

Then there is stationary vs. moving source, which pertains to cars drag racing or blasting bass. The folks who live in high rises along Mound frequently raise objections about this sort of noise. He also suggests that the current noise ordinance sets the same decibel limits citywide, with restrictions for certain hours. An option that might make sense would be to have lower audibility at x distance standards for residential vs commercial or mixed-use settings - particularly for buffer locations between residential and commercial (e.g., *those* across from Selby Commercial Event Center and Parking Garage).

*Our* take after reading through it all is that:

- 1) it is clear why existing ordinances aren't enforced - they are too convoluted and hard to measure.
- 2) I think a plainly audible at a distance could work better for enforcement provided thresholds are low enough
- 3) there should likely be different standards for residential zones (e.g. "quiet enjoyment"), although buffer situations like yours and Selby make it hard to know where to draw different lines, and mixed use urban situations like The Mark residents living above the Gator Club with hotels with rooftop bars surrounding them present challenges. (*Note: Designating mixed-use areas as residential for the purpose of sound ordinance enforcement might be the solution.*)
- 4) there should absolutely be differences for daytime vs nighttime. (*Night-time hours should reserve the final hour for breakdown and packing of equipment, i.e., the music/amplified sounds should end an hour before the actual night-time limit.*)
- 5) Permits for events where sound is planned to exceed normal thresholds should be relatively rare and strictly enforced as to audibility at x distance and hours.