



City of St. Petersburg

NOISE ORDINANCE PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

3/29/17

City Staff in Attendance:

Alan DeLisle, City Development Administrator
Dave Goodwin, Planning & Economic Development Department Director
Rob Gerdes, Codes Compliance Director
Mark Winn, Assistant City Attorney
Elizabeth Abernethy, Zoning Official
Luis Teba, Planner II, Urban Planning & Historic Preservation

Steve Kornell, City Council Member
Ed Montanari, City Council Member
Karl Nurse, City Council Member

City Acoustical Consultant:

Michael Keene, PE, Keane Acoustics

Questions & Answers – Notes organized by subject:

Sound

- What do decibel levels mean?
 - 70/75 dba – distance traveled
- What is OSHA 95 standard - ?
 - 70/75 measured at sound source.
 - No proposed change after 11:00 p.m. (12:00 on weekends)
- Why are we allowing dbc to be higher? Clarification of dba vs. dbc was given M. Keene. - Dbc to address base.
 - A weighting scale vs. C weighting scale. Octave bands are what we hear.
 - Frequency and weighting: a 75 dbc is not louder than a 70 dba – different

Mechanical Equipment & Noise

- Mechanical equipment – retroactive compliance
 - 60 dba @ 10-feet
- Mechanical equipment – compliance variance possible based on age and expected life of equipment
 - Time period?
 - Mitigation options?

Frequent Violators

- Flamingo
- Detroit – issues with The Landing & Caddy's (can't sleep)
 - Too close to meet the 100-foot rule so police can't require them to shut it off

General Noise Concerns/Complaints

- Relentless nature; plainly audible
- Café permits
- Four years, can't open windows
- Last meeting in October 2016 – been waiting too long for action
- Future performances at Al Lang Stadium?
- Future location of the Getaway

Enforcement

- Fines are not high enough
- Employees other than police need to enforce
- Citations issued?
- Person assigned for enforcement?
- No need for a victim (police)
- Possibility of escalating fines, loss of liquor license
- Police need to make a commitment – County Statute 58-13 Section 58
- City police staff not informed and not enforcing
 - 859 calls to Flamingo; 180 calls for noise
- Rob Gerdes, Codes Compliance Assistance Director, reviewed why it makes sense to have Police handle
- Want codes to handle it, not police (citizen comment)

Actions Taken

- (The One) spent \$1 million to abate noise impacts on hotel building
- Bayfront Towers resident reported spending \$50,000 to upgrade windows – did not help with base (dbc) impacts
- \$17 million spent on Birchwood renovation; short building, this is why noise impacts taller buildings – unfair for Birchwood to fix problem

Suggested Actions

- Can City create an Ad Hoc Committee? – request to formulate, to continue
 - Residents, business owners
 - Include residents from other areas of the City
- Create map of “hot spots”
 - Data collection
- Speaker orientation (doesn't help with low frequency)
- Street musicians
 - Need to have street permits with auditions
 - “Buskers” – permit with small fee
- Less dependency on Police – should be a department that they can call
- Prohibit on Beach and Jannus
- Tests and distribute results to stakeholders

Next Steps

- Form committee – meetings?
- Draft amendments
- Third stakeholders meeting maybe more, then – PS&I and City Council
- Data needed (Robert Neff)