

From: Shirley  
Subject:  
Date: June 5, 2017 at 3:34 PM  
To: Tanya Park tpark@london.ca

*My name is ----  
Thank you for this opportunity to  
address this committee  
that having been said,*



I can not believe that we are still having to come before council to argue in favour of balance, good manners and health with regard to sound in the core of London! But in light of a staff recommendation to allow amplified music on outdoor patios in designated Music, Entertainment and Cultural Districts up to 70 decibels until midnight, it would seem that this is still necessary!

I would like to reiterate a # of points:

- First no one is suggesting that NO music be allowed on outdoor patios downtown. We agree that music can contribute to the vibrancy and attractiveness of an establishment. We are merely looking for a better balance than is put forward in this report. After all, as Councillor Park suggested in the debate about this issue on March 20, ~~2017~~, louder does not mean better.
- 70 decibels is the sound of a vacuum cleaner, a freeway at 10 am 50' from the pavement, or a passenger car travelling at 65 mph 25' away. Would any of you care to have to get to sleep when surrounded by this level of sound?
- The usually accepted standard in case law for decibel levels when sleeping is 25 decibels.
- This Council has repeatedly expressed the desire to attract more people who will actually live downtown. We already have a large # of condo towers and rental buildings in London's core - and more are in the planning stages. Who will want to live in these buildings if they can not enjoy their balconies in the summer - or even sleep without hiding behind closed windows and expensive, greenhouse- gas - generating A/C?
- When disparate groups of people are attempting to live in close proximity to each other, balance and some modicum of good manners are crucial! The content itself of music can profoundly affect people - not everyone likes rap or classical music; but when this is being broadcast at 70 decibels at 11:30 pm, the effect can be enraging!
- In the Music, Entertainment and Cultural District study presented by city administration on March 20, ~~2017~~, most other Canadian cities cited provide for lower decibel levels on outdoor patios than the 70 decibels recommended here, and Hamilton for one prohibits amplified music on outdoor patios altogether.

Hamilton by the way is experiencing an artistic and cultural rebirth and according to our children and their friends is known as one of the most desirable Ontario cities in which to live.

- In its Position Paper on Noise Pollution, The Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) makes a # of relevant points:

- a) "As noise pollution has a negative impact on hearing health, CHS strongly supports initiatives pertaining to hearing conservation and noise control."
- b) "Noise is one of the leading causes of hearing loss and statistics suggest a trend that the incidence of hearing loss is occurring at younger and younger ages. It is easy to take the sense of hearing for granted and ignore symptoms of hearing loss since they are generally not associated with pain. Noise induced hearing loss occurs gradually over time and goes virtually unnoticed until it is too late."
- c) "Hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition in older adults and the most widespread disability."
- d) "The World Health Organization (WHO) states that noise induced hearing loss is an important public health priority"
- e) "Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) states that among all occupational hazards, noise is the biggest cause of permanent disability claims settled by the Workers' Compensation Board."
- f) "The Ontario Environmental Protection Act (EPA) states that noise is a contaminant and can have adverse effects such as: loss of enjoyment of the normal use of property; ~~impairment of the quality of the natural environment~~, harm or material discomfort to any person, and an adverse effect on the health of people."

In light of all this, I would implore this committee and ultimately Council to amend this report to establish a much more reasonable balance in the decibel level and duration of sound on those outdoor patios which are close to residential dwellings.

Thank you.

Shirley Clement  
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