

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

12. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING - Deleting Section 4.18.5 of Zoning By-law Z-1 to permit Amplified Music, Dancing on Patios City Wide (Z-8763)
 - Jim McCormick, 26 St. Clair Place – advising that he has heard from people who have lived in downtown London for a decade or two decades and they do not like Rock the Park, which is for charity, they do not like Bluesfest, which is for charity, as well as Beetlesfest, Sunfest, etc.; indicating that these festivals have been going on for a long time and he does not know why you would continue to live in a place for a decade or two decades and still be complaining about it; expressing concern because he and his wife own a company and they do a lot of benefits for cancer victims, both adults and children and homeless people; noting that they do a benefit every year for Salthaven Wildlife Sanctuary and Animal Alert; pointing out that every time he does one of these benefits to support the community, when he asks these people if they can help out with the benefit, he is bombarded with musicians who, for no money, take their time and their talent and they come out in throngs to help support the benefit; noting that some of the musicians are here tonight; advising that he has done these benefits for the last six or seven years; finding it very unfair that these people who give back to our community, for free, they take the one thing that many people go see bands or go see artists or see people on television, everyone can drive a nail with a hammer, some people are good at plumbing; noting that he is useless around the house, his wife does it all; stating that not everyone can play music, it is truly a gift that only some people have; finding it very unfair that his peers, his colleagues and his friends do so much for this community and now that we have a chance to do away with this draconian version of live music on patios in London, they are going to be made to suffer for this because it can help increase how much money they make as they are full-time working musicians, it gives them exposure because you never know who is going to see them; understanding that the residents have issues and he strongly does not think that the music community is going to trample over people; thinking that there is a fair balance to be had here but for so long it has been one way; indicating that there is no disputing the economics of live music to cities; looking up Nashville, Ottawa, Montreal, there is no disputing from a tourism standpoint the economic side it brings in, whether it be restaurants, hotels, venues, whatever the case may be it has an impact; noting that every city is different because every population is different but it still has an impact; stating that he has lived here all his life and quite frankly, we have always wanted to be that one city between Windsor and Toronto and we clamour and we do this and we do that; pointing out that this is an opportunity to make a statement and to make London a music city, we have a vast array of incredibly talented people in this city and we have so many people who are working to try to make this work and they are doing it unselfishly, they are giving up time at their successful businesses; asking that we not go back five, ten, fifteen years, let us make a step forward here; advising that they will work with the residents downtown but it cannot be one way; imploring the Planning and Environment Committee to make this change; advising that last night was a huge success with so many people on his social media were so pumped about this, patrons, venue owners, musicians; wondering if you are going to turn around and shut them down twenty-four hours later, that would not be right.
 - Kate Rapson, Chair, Woodfield Community Association – collecting input on this matter; advising that she has heard from a number of people, there is the Downtown Noise Committee and they have advised her of their position; noting that she has also heard from residents; stating that, with respect to the proposed changes, some people have expressed that it is fine to have amplified music outside; noting against musicians at all, a lot of us enjoy outdoor patios, music festivals and live music; having lived in Woodfield for a while, which goes from Adelaide Street to Richmond Street, and there is a little pocket at the end of Hyman Street which is struggling with one or two restaurants, one which is exempt from the current by-laws so they do have amplified music, if she is right; indicating that residents have had trouble with Jack Astor's and the Ceeps just getting louder and louder regardless of the zoning and the by-laws; something that has been a chronic

problem for them; asking the Planning and Environment Committee to keep this in mind; believing that it is good to move forward, but we need to be cognizant that there are young families down here, people wanting to live and to go to bed at the right time; recommending a couple of recommendations to reconsider what is on the table, which is quite flexible, is really good and is on a case-by-case basis which is excellent but she wondered about keeping the curfew to 11:00 PM because, as was pointed out last night, if it goes to midnight and if it slips past midnight, it takes longer for a By-law Officer or a Police Officer to get out there and shut it down if someone is struggling with the noise; wondering about the restriction on outdoor patios; indicating that it was mentioned at the Community and Protective Services Committee that one or two are fine but once you get twenty or thirty or more, what does that feel like as a nearby resident; requesting that the decibel level be lowered a little bit to 70 decibels at point of reception would maybe be a little more comfortable for people; stating it is a balance, how can we work together to keep residential areas adjacent to entertainment districts, that there is a buffer, that there is a livable space and it is enjoyed by everybody and certainly supports the music culture in London, which, she believes is a great way to go.

- Barb Whitney, 26 St. Clair Place – advising that she works with the London and St. Thomas Association of Realtors and she has for twenty-seven years; reaching out to a few of her realtor friends who are extremely busy, she was able to get some signatures but a lot of them are going to be electronic as she is catching them between offers and submitting to the Clerk a petition with 15 signatures in support of the proposed changes.
- Mohamed Moussa, 155 Thornton Avenue – expressing opposition because if this is appealed either as a zoning issue, which this is, this is use of land and should not be removed from zoning or whether it is a direct frontal attack on the validity and the legality of the by-law that is being enforced or whether it is human rights issues; requesting to be part of the circulation list.
- Scott Atchison, 240 Elgin Street – asking the Planning and Environment Committee to consider the decibel level of 70 decibels and what that actually is, how loud that is; advising that a hand clap is 70 decibels, a cough is 70 decibels and these are not things that should annoy you at your house, at that distance; pointing out that if they come with a decibel metre to your house and measure 70 decibels, they are breaking their rules, there is nothing to be afraid of. *(Councillor S. Turner advising the audience that what is being discussed at this meeting is the Zoning By-law, last night there were provisions that talked explicitly about the decibel limits, the times, that is part of the Noise By-law; what is happening here is the question about the provision on patios explicitly and with respect to amplified music and dancing; having heard a few points raised specifically with respect to 70 decibels but we are not deliberating on that tonight.)*
- Anna Maria Valastro, 1-133 John Street – see attached presentation.
- Patrick Rumsey, 7-308 Princess Avenue – advising that he is the sole proprietor of a disc jockey company and he has been for thirty-five years; having been here last night, Mr. O. Katolyk, Chief Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer, showed on his phone, which had a decibel metre on it, that 70 metres is nothing; indicating that they are temporary permits, they can be revoked, they are subject to all the rules and regulations that are there; expressing support for this; stating that there are so many reputable businesses in this city, even those that are perhaps chains or large corporations, they are not absentee landlords, they care about their business, they care about their customers; advising that the musicians certainly care about the attendees, they want them to come back; people that go to restaurants, patios and live music venues vote with their feet, if they do not like the music, if they do not like the food, they leave; reiterating that it is temporary, 70 decibels is not going to work, leave it at 90 and allow the staff member, there were a number of businesses last night named specifically, if there is a quality establishment at Waterloo Street and Cheapside Street that has a patio that now wants to have music, they will have to apply for a temporary permit and they will have to negotiate what the decibel will be; believing that is fair; pointing out that, as a resident he understands that you cannot please everybody; advising that he moved downtown from the Fiddler's Green area simply because there is more going on here; indicating that at the Community and Protective Services Committee, Mayor M. Brown had a list of adjectives that were used by the professional people that were here.
- Catherine Charlton, 7 Picton Street – see attached presentation.

- Cole Benjamin, 179 Forest Hill Avenue – advising that for the last twenty years he has lived in Toronto and Montreal; noting that both cities allow music on patios; indicating that he does not know if they have a decibel level restriction but if you look at the downtown areas of both of those cities, they are vibrant and busy, a lot of happy people, dancing, having a lot of fun, generating revenue; stating that a couple of years ago the City of London hired a Music Officer, Mr. C. Crossman, and lifting this by-law will allow him to do his job.
- Ryan Schroeyens, 197 Starlight Avenue – advising that he is on the Venues and Events Task Force; advising that he spends a lot of time communicating with Mr. C. Crossman, Music Officer, and working with city staff trying to make things better for this city and music; indicating that Mayor M. Brown has said that he wants this to be a music city; pointing out that his family has been in the music industry their whole lives and they have devoted themselves to it; advising that he runs a music conference in Toronto that he does completely free of charge and he does all kinds of things here in London, he runs a recording studio, a PA shop and several things; pointing out that a lot of the people that they are talking about today, these venue owners, are all clients of his and he has known some of them for twenty or thirty years; stating that some of the things that the residents have issues with are very valid and they deserve an ear, they deserve someone to care and they deserve someone to call; thinking that everything he heard last night and tonight from city staff satisfies that; thinking that there are a lot of things that are being introduced and put in place; believing the people on the Municipal Council, the city staff, have satisfied an opportunity to give punishment where it is due when laws are broken, to give the ability to contact the people that enforce that; indicating that he does not want these London people who have put their entire family, like he has, like his father has, they put their lives on the line and risked a lot to build their businesses and these people deserve the right to be equal; pointing out that there is a 1993 stipulation where people that were before that can do it, but the people after that cannot, there is a lot of people that that affects and we are treating these people like they are criminals and they are not, they are just like me and you, they are just trying to run a fair business, they pay their taxes, they do everything that they do; advising that all they want to do is employ local musicians and give everyone in this room that attends music events, they just want to give us a good time; understanding that the residents have issues with noise; pointing out that last night there was a differentiation between noise and music; hearing people say that they are not against music but by turning this down, you are against music because you are not allowing music on patios; to say that and then to be against it, it just does not work; stating that what we need to do is make sure that we hold the people on city staff who are in charge of enforcing the by-laws accountable when they are broken, they need to force those and hold the people who break them accountable, but these are regular people and they are not hiding and most of their businesses are not going anywhere clearly and they have been in business for many, many years; indicating that nobody is trying to break the laws here, everybody is just trying to get along and he truly believes even after physically visiting nine places, who are all clients of his, they are all in favour of this and so are he and his family, as well as many others, who have taken their time to make this a music city and do what we think we can do to drive not only the economy and not only all the stuff we are talking about, but let us make our lives better; let us move forward, let us find a way to work together; we are all Londoners here, no one is trying to fight.
- Danya Walker, 570 Wellington Street – indicating that she has nothing against musicians, she is just concerned about the hours because of the need to get up and work.
- Dwayne Welch, 42 Terrace Street – indicating that he is a professional musician and teacher and he has been doing it most of his life; advising that his first musical experience came from outside; pointing out that when he was a young lad he got himself into a fair amount of trouble and then he was exposed to the Home County Folk Festival by his father and his mother which was life changing for him; indicating that he became a musician and he now devotes himself to doing seminars at public schools, teaching children mostly between the age of eight and twelve years old to help them stay off the street; noting that was one of his main things as far as how he became a musician; noting that he has drive and has loved music ever since he can remember; advising that his uncle was one of the lead violinists for the Lawrence Welk band, his parents played a little bit and so there was musical environments around him but until he saw it with his own eyes and heard it with

his own ears and watched the glory and the edification that they were getting it was almost like it said something to him; noting that he stopped getting into trouble, watched his friends get into trouble and he started practicing his butt off to become one of the more elite players in this city; thinking that is something that he thinks has got to be hugely recognized as well; recognizing that the businesses in London are huge but without a music scene, we all know this, there is nothing really going on here; recognizing that it is a fact, he has lived here his whole life and so have most of the people that he plays with in his bands and everyone else; pointing to Sunfest, the biggest draw that we have downtown, look at the people that brings in, to be able to eliminate something like that where is the economy going to go there, that is huge; advising that the most students that he has been accumulated is not from playing inside a bar because those kids cannot see him inside a bar playing, it is when they are walking by the street with their parents and they are going wow, that is incredible and they watch you and their mom and dad come up and shake your hand and say who are you, this is who I am, my son might be interested in taking some lessons.

- Heather Chapman, representing the residents of Middlesex Condominium Corporation 118, known as Camden Place, 152 Albert Street – commenting that the people who are residents of the downtown are also the life blood of the downtown; pointing out that this has been observed and written about many times, not only in the local The London Free Press paper but also by Toronto newspapers; noting that the gist of these articles has been come and look at Richmond Row, look at this great example of urban living where businesses, restaurants, retail and residential all live within a small radius of each other and they do it harmoniously; noting that it is a symbiotic relationship between the people who come there to perform, people who work there, people who live there decide to build their lives there, who pay taxes, who live harmoniously whether or not they are old money, new money, entrepreneurs, people who live in social housing, people that live in housing that has been provided for people with brain injuries; reiterating that we all live here together and we can do it harmoniously but you cannot expect people to live in the downtown when they are subjected to people who just come there to play, yell and scream, do whatever they want to do; stating that there is all kinds of disrespect that goes on and if we want to continue to have a downtown that includes everybody, all occupations, all income levels, all interests, all needs, all desires and just a basic ability to live their life, in a good, decent and respectful way, then you have to not do this sort of thing where you want to make a big change, make everything better and you do it by taking the rug out from one part of the equation; stating that if you take this section out of the Zoning By-law, then you are going to take away the equal footing that we all have now; noting that the downtown is not going to be what it is now; pointing out that what has happened in other cities and this is very well known, that when you give carte blanche to just entertainment, you do not consider retail or the people that live there then what happens is those people move away, the retail cannot survive and you get just a strip of a street that is just bars and things start to die and then it becomes seedy and people that live there do not feel safe and they are not going to stay in the downtown; suggesting making the Noise By-law better and leaving the land use as it is, where it is.
- Diedre “Didi”, 1459 Trafalgar Street – advising that she would like to live downtown at some point; pointing out that some of the City Councillors might recognize her because she has been vocal on some of the other issues and she is pleased to have the chance today to talk to the Councillors about something that she is very passionate about; addressing the Committee in a different context than some of the others and that is as a first generation immigrant to Canada and as a newcomer to London; stating that since moving to London three years ago, she has fallen in love with something that is very unique and special about the city, that being our large and vibrant live music scene; advising that one of the people that introduced her to the scene is Mr. J. McCormick and his wife Mrs. B. Whitney; pointing out that she has lived in six cities and three countries and has been fortunate enough to travel around the world and visit different cities and she has never in her life seen a live music scene like this one; expressing that she loves live music and she loves dancing; noting that she attends one to two shows per week at various venues across the city; stating that she has become friends and acquaintances with over one hundred musicians and hundreds of fans and this is the reason; advising that London is the first city in Canada that she can call home because it feels like that for

the first time and it is because of the music scene here; seeing how hard these musicians work and most of them are just scraping by because a lot of the time they work, they are not really getting paid for that time; giving them the opportunity to play on patios will give them some extra income and venues, staff members and owners will see increased earnings and profits as well; this is a win-win for businesses and musicians and live music fans such as herself; advising that she has lived in large cities that have a downtown core; noting that she lived seven years in Nyrobi, Kenya, twelve years in Washington, DC, six years in Ottawa and four years in Montreal; pointing out that she has her own first hand understanding of what a downtown is supposed to be, at least from her perspective, where tourism, dining, shopping, fashion, culture, entertainment, music, the arts and nightlife are supposed to be front and center making it a popular destination for tourists and local residents; therefore, having a significant positive impact on profits for local businesses and employees; realizing that some Londoners who are present here today that live downtown might not share her viewpoint of what a downtown is meant to be and it is ok to disagree; indicating that her understanding is that suburbs are a good place to live for people who want to enjoy peace and quiet at all times and she does not mean any disrespect by that; advising that she has a downtown personality while others might not; the nice thing about London is that there is a lot of affordable housing options which is why so many people like herself choose to move here, because of that specific reason but when people move here, they want to know what kind of a downtown London has to offer and if it is any fun to live in; if the answer is no they might as well chose a different kind of city because there are other cities that are fun; believing that London is a city of festivals and having one of the most amazing live music scenes in this country makes London an attractive destination to tourists and people who want to move here permanently; downtown London has amazing potential to grow and develop and she hopes that City Council will pass any and all measures that support amplified live music and dancing on patios in downtown London and she appreciates the opportunity to be heard.

- Ben Todd, 435 Wilkins Street – indicating that he is a member of a small, modest band and he is a struggling college student; advising that the prospect of being able to play at more venues that would be more accessible for smaller bands would mean more money in his pocket, which would ease a lot of stresses in his life and the lives of lots of his friends; seeing this as a great opportunity to allow struggling musicians to earn extra income as well as give back to the city.
- Joel, 384 William Street – advising that he has been living in Toronto for the last six years and he is here to open a music school and recording studio and build the music community in the city; making this a place he is proud of, to make music in; indicating that he lived in Seattle last year for a few months doing music there and he was living downtown; noting that it was loud sometimes but he did not mind, it sounded like people were having fun and those sounds to him make him happy; thinking this is something the Committee should be aware of living downtown; pointing out that one of the main strips in a town called Freemont and one day he was walking up the road, around 11:00 and he heard incredible music coming from, it wasn't exactly a patio, but they had all of the windows open and he walked inside and see a musician who has inspired him so much happened to be on stage and you could definitely hear it from the street and if they did not have the sound coming through the windows, much like a patio, he would not have gone in there and met one of his heroes; noting that he had no idea the concert was happening, the musician just happened to live in the city; telling the Committee the story because it is really amazing to be able to go see music and get drawn in; noting that it does not happen the same way when you are walking by and it is a closed venue.