

I would like to make my views known regarding the current review of the City's bi-laws relating to noise and duration of public gatherings on civic property.

1. I see nothing wrong with the current controls. They have been developed over a long period of time and strike a fair and acceptable balance between the local residents and the benefactors of the concerts and activities (this assumes that many residents in proximity to the gatherings would rather prefer peace and quiet).
2. The city can always allow exceptions as warranted to for extended venue formats in special circumstances.
3. Regarding the decibel limits, I was able to hear this weekend's goings on just fine. Sounded like a country and western and folk groups. Could even make out the hoops and yelling from 10 blocks away.
4. I found it a sad commentary on our community when the sound in my back yard coming from the "event" was loud enough to hear over the church bells at 11 am calling the congregation to worship at St. Johns the Evangelist Church the corner of Wellington and St. James 2 blocks away from my house.
5. I have a real issue with promoters needing to make more money and in the doing cause disharmony and discomfort to the tax-paying citizens who live in the general proximity to the venues who although subjected to the continuous din receive not a farthing for their pain and suffering. Their summers are already significantly disrupted already. Encourage the promoters to live right across the street from Victoria Park. In fact, I encourage all the promoters of changing the current bi-laws to consider moving there as well. WHO do we think is going to stay downtown till 1 pm and party.
6. To underscore the real issue:
  - a. London has upwards of 60,000 additional transients who provide significant benefits and corresponding challenges for the city. The recent incident at Fleming Drive or the near riot that developed at the "CEEPS et al" Homecoming event underscore the underlying weakness of the city's contingency capacity to deal with a mob. The first thing the city administration wants to cut when casting a budget is the policing costs. Just imagine what would have resulted if the city police force had to deal with a Fleming riot and one downtown at the same time. WHO do we think is going to stay downtown till 1 pm and partying, who are we servicing with this proposal.
  - b. Until the City demonstrates it can clearly manage a crisis situation which develops when the transient community goes over the top and avoid the negative consequences of the "Press", I believe we would be very foolish indeed to exacerbate the situation by prolonging the "partying" and making it louder just to pad the wallets of the promoters who are suggesting we are missing out on some top acts who by the way might be better suited to be playing a venue at the JLC. Now that would be a win win.

Thanks for the opportunity to participate in the debate.

Ian Hesketh,  
836 Waterloo St.  
London.