

Colleen Norton

From: Susan B [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2021 7:25 AM
To: Patrick Driscoll; Karina Elrod; Carol Fey; Pamela Grove; Scott Melin; Kelly Milliman; Jerry Valdes; Colleen Norton
Subject: Higher noise limits? Tell me you're kidding.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Increasing noise limits in all of downtown Littleton, day and night, is one of the worst ideas ever. It is already hard to sit outside and have a conversation at normal levels due to street traffic. And you would seriously consider allowing louder noise from bands and other events on Main Street to extend across **190 acres** of the downtown area?

Let me state the obvious about the process:

- There's been **little or no warning** to those affected.
- There seems to have been no City Council Study session to discuss this in public.
- Only 2 weeks from the first reading is short notice. And pandemic restrictions and winter still keep us from being able to get around and talk to each other to spread the word.

Now let's look at my personal experience:

- Amplified music from 1 to 3 blocks away sounds bad. Beyond 50 feet, it's just intrusive noise.
- And you don't get to pick the bands. You have to hear whatever band somebody booked.
- When two or more bands are playing, it is a cacophony of sound.

This ordinance is offensive as it defies the concept of general welfare to give special rights to a very very few.

Now let's look at the reasons that have been put forth:

- The motive is that a few businesses around Main Street have complained that they suffer from not being able to let bands play louder. An absurd demand as entertainment venues don't need to be loud to succeed.
- If this is supposed to offset losses because of the pandemic restrictions, I would put forth an increase in business resulting from making more noise across 190 acres is minor compared to the harm to the loss of sleep and quiet-time to the rest of us.
- If your business requires loud music to survive, its survival is doubtful.
- There are locations which have loud entertainment and are known for that. Is that Downtown Littleton? No. Would louder bands and more noise make downtown Littleton better? No. Downtown Littleton is not Downtown Denver. If a business needs a loud band, there are places for that. We should not change Littleton for a few businesses. Instead, those businesses should respect and support residents and their business neighbors.

Successful entertainment districts co-exist with housing by respecting and protecting the residents, who are often their customers too. Think of Cherry Creek which seriously protects the long-standing home residents nearby, plus thousands more residents in new construction, from lights and noise at night.

At the same time the City Council keeps increasing density of housing and structures, changing zoning to allow 4-story buildings much closer to each other almost everywhere downtown. It also keeps decreasing noise and light buffers like distance and open space and trees downtown. And now, you are considering increasing legal noise at all those hundreds or thousands of new and existing homes, offices, businesses, day and night.

When a government increases density of housing significantly, with careless layouts that have created echoing walkways and narrow streets between 4-story flat walls that bounce sound back and forth and does away with open space, public

space and room for trees and other sound barriers, then the first thing a responsible entity should do is increase protections from "nuisances" such as bad light, intrusive noise, smoke, etc. and other things that interfere with your enjoyment of your own home.

Finally, downtown Littleton is across from the South Platte River, a haven for wildlife and a recreational gem. Our comprehensive plan emphasizes health, recreation, outdoors activities. Loud noise extending over all downtown would also affect the river valley, and harm what remains of natural conditions along the river, and intrude on most people trying to use the river paths to exercise. I am under the impression that the Envision input states people wish to keep the character of Littleton as it is. Increasing noise, especially in what was the "quaint", "charming", "eclectic" downtown, violates that direction.

Do the right thing and do NOT approve this ordinance just because a few businesses think it will help them.

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Susan Burgstiner

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Hello City Council,

Please enter these observations into the public record for the scheduled March 2, 2021 virtual public hearing on **proposed ordinance 03-2021** regarding noise control. Noise levels are a more significant matter of personal health, well-being and domestic tranquility than is commonly thought. And although we don't live within the specified downtown area, residents in the city's suburbs can still hear you.

First, Please Reconsider EPA's Standards:

There is a particularly relevant section from an EPA document entitled, "[Information on Levels of Environmental Noise Requisite to Protect Public Health and Welfare with an Adequate Margin of Safety \(PDF\)](https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/epa-identifies-noise-levels-affecting-health-and-welfare.html)". It may be found at <https://archive.epa.gov/epa/aboutepa/epa-identifies-noise-levels-affecting-health-and-welfare.html>

That link "identifies a 24-hour exposure level of 70 decibels as the level of environmental noise which will prevent any measurable hearing loss over a lifetime. Likewise, levels of 55 decibels outdoors and 45 decibels indoors are identified as preventing activity interference and annoyance. These levels of noise are considered those which will permit spoken conversation and other activities such as sleeping, working and recreation, which are part of the daily human condition."

If I've read and understood it accurately, EPA shows that noise levels specified as allowable in the pending resolution are in excess of those referenced in the EPA document indicating *"The level of 70 decibels is identified for all areas in order to prevent hearing loss."*—Notably from 7:00AM to 10:00PM Thursday through Saturday. In addition, the 60 dB threshold specified for Sundays and Monday through Wednesday from 7:00AM to 10:00PM exceed EPA's 55 dB maximum *"preventing activity interference and annoyance."* (See above quoted text).

It's unclear why the City of Littleton would want to ratchet down allowable dB levels in the proposal to avoid harm to visitors and downtown residents. Looking from the outside in, this wouldn't seem to be an imprudent or excessively constraining adjustment to the city's proposed public policy.

Second, Please Consider the Logarithmic Nature of the dB Scale:

The dB scale is sometimes misunderstood as a linear scale. But its logarithmic nature is such that a mere increase of 3 dB actually doubles sound loudness. This is explained on several websites; see this handy Pulsar Instruments link: <https://pulsarinstruments.com/en/post/understanding-3db-rule>. I hope this brings noise levels in the proposed sound ordinance into more bold relief for Council's consideration.

Third, Please Consider Off-site Impacts:

It's no secret that downtown's party purveyors have a particular penchant for loud noise (e.g., enter any evening bar scene). But when that happens outdoors (re. the proposed ordinance), that's another story. Adequate consideration of off-site impacts seems lacking from the proposal's analysis.

Please consider that what sounds like loud music up close, when reverberating off downtown buildings and neighborhoods, sounds more like annoying racket as it radiates across the city. Even at present sound levels (apparently allowable), it is not at all difficult to find more than a few suburbanites upset at noises booming out from various downtown entertainment venues. That sounds like what EPA refers to as *"activity interference and annoyance"*. We can attest this is true based on personal experience and interactions with other citizens.

I hope Council will consider and act on what appears to be an urgent need for adjusting allowable outdoor dB levels downwards prior to acting on the proposed ordinance. Thank you very much!

Don Bruns
District IV



Council Meeting Agenda Item Comment

Littleton Center
2255 W. Berry Avenue
Littleton, CO 80120

Date Submitted:

March 2, 2021 01:54 PM

Council meeting date:

03/02/2021

Council agenda item number:

7-3-3 &-6

Name

James Donnelly

Email address

motelevergreen@msn.com

Neighborhood

Sterne Park

Position

I oppose the issue

Comments:

I have lived at the same address on S Spotswood street for over 40 years and I have seen a lot of changes to the City, many of them unfortunate. The first "noise solution" was the railroad depression. While it did wonders for the traffic at the time, the noise just got worse. I wake up to trains nearly every night. What was supposed to muffle the noise simply amplified it. Now, in the summer, the loud music never seems to stop. Isn't this enough? If the Council is to do anything about noise, the permitted levels should be REDUCED!

I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS ORDINANCE!

Colleen Norton

From: Melissa Warren [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:05 PM
To: Colleen Norton
Subject: City Counsel Meeting Tonight

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

I live at the end of the block of Sycamore and Powers, last summer The Grande station played their live bands so loud, even with my windows shut I could hear it some days until 10 pm. This is not friendly to the residents that live here, nor needed. If the customers need it that loud then maybe your reaching out to the wrong clientele. The music should not be raised. The level of music at a normal state is just fine and your food should be the real drive that gets people there. Plus other businesses start to compete and it sounds awful. Just rely on doing good food and good entertainment and you won't need a gimmick. I strongly oppose any change in the ordinance.

Thank you,
Melissa Warren

Sent from my iPhone

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