

**From:** [Steve Sikora](#)  
**To:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Sikora](#)  
**Subject:** Noise variance for TC Marathon  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 11:01:27 AM

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**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

Dear City Council,

I'm not sure whether the marathon organizers wished to solicit resident's input as a courtesy or whether the City of St Paul insisted on it. In either case as a long-time Shadow Falls resident I appreciate the sentiment. But the biggest inconvenience posed by the marathon is not the noise it produces, not the cheering crowds, nor even the congested parking. It is being trapped inside or outside the neighborhood for half a day each year by barricaded streets, literally held prisoner in our neighborhood. No hope of going to the grocery store, to church, or to breakfast. Hopefully there is never a major catastrophe like a house fire in this small, triangular neighborhood during the event.

But thanks for initiating this conversation on noise limits in the city because it reminded me of the near daily occurrences of chronic noise that most definitely exceeds the city's prescribed limits, all well within 50 feet of our home. Here are a few of them: garbage trucks and recycling trucks. Due to the number of apartment buildings and their independent trash companies Shadow Falls is plagued by racket, and not just on our assigned garbage day. Truck and dumpster noise is a near constant in our neighborhood, at least three days a week. I did some research, noise level-100 decibels. Lawn services with commercial mowers-95 decibels. Gas-powered leaf blowers-90-100 decibels and the services will run 3 to 5 of these at once! The combined cacophony produces well over the decibels created by a jet aircraft-at only 120 decibels. That does not include the leaf vacuum box in the street. The noise is unbelievable. It's like a military siege or a drag strip just feet from our house. I'd be happy to provide the council with the names of each of the offending commercial companies. They can easily be tracked down and should be issued cease and desist orders immediately. I am serious about this. The racket is truly unbearable, particularly during the spring and fall. I don't want to believe that commercial interests take precedent over the preservation of citizen's hearing, their sanity or the law. What will it take to get the city to act?

Sincerely,  
Steve Sikora

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