

Jan 10, 2022

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I appreciate this opportunity to submit comments for the Jan. 12, 2021 St. Paul City Council Public Hearing for the sound level variance requested by Nor-Son Construction for construction at Winslow Commons 170 Western Ave, St. Paul. My business office seeing clients is 5-10 feet from the construction site at 557 W 7th St (Banfil Office Court). I have been so profoundly impacted by the noise since construction began Nov 12th that I have had to temporarily re-locate my business, thus paying two rents and incurring the loss of some income. I am seeking compensation for expenses from Nor-Son. I also submitted this letter and list of the requested compensation amount to Nor-Son on Dec. 23 with no response to date. I want the support of the City Council to direct Nor-Son Construction to compensate for this unexpected stressful series of expenses and loss of partial income. I want that one of the modifications for the City Council to grant the sound variance to Nor-Son Construction is that I be compensated for expenses due to intolerable noise levels from the construction making it no longer possible for me to do my health care work there.

I have been a loyal tenant of the Banfil Office Court at 557 West 7th Street for the past 18 years and plan to stay. I have developed my business (Rolfing Structural Integration) at this location. I have clients that come here from the greater Twin Cities Metro, including parts of Wisconsin and Iowa.

Rolfing is a highly specialized, hands-on, connective tissue manipulation of the human structure which involves movement education. This work releases physical and emotional trauma held in the body, so it is imperative that I provide my clients with a safe and quiet environment. Therefore, the construction that Bigos Properties / Nor-Son began on November 12th, 2021

within five feet of my office without any advance notification was extremely shocking and disruptive. By November 14th, 2021, excavation with continuous loud beeping and banging sounds from the caterpillars and dump trucks was constant most days from 8 AM when I arrived until late afternoon when I was departing my office.

The promises by Nor-Son of putting up sound blankets and measuring sound levels only began after weeks of construction had already taken place, and did nothing to abate any noise heard from my office, which is on the first floor facing the construction site. Nor-Son also promised they would only be removing bedrock on Saturdays, but that was not the case. It has been impossible for me to conduct my business in this environment.

Thus, I have been forced to find an alternative work space that will fit my needs (size of office and centrality of location) until I can return to my office at Banfil Office Court. As you can imagine, this was extremely difficult to find. I was fortunate to finally find a space but only after I had already taken three days off of work to search for an adequate space. The time that I had to miss work to spend office-searching cost me time and money, as well as inconveniencing my clients. Additionally, I have had to pay for many other expenses associated with the unanticipated relocation of my office space including: Renting movers, purchasing new items and hardware to equip the temporary office space and waiting room, ordering new business cards with my updated temporary business address, and more (detailed on attached invoice).

This whole process has been incredibly stressful and disruptive. I will also likely lose some business from having to relocate my office to the Roseville area. The excavation is still not complete and I am aware that this will be followed by the rough-in construction which will involve compressors and multiple crews banging away with various projects at least 8-10 hours a day (during the time which I would need to be here in the office).

I need to be compensated for the expenses listed above, as well as my monthly rent to Banfil Office Court for however many months I deem it necessary to conduct my business elsewhere. I will determine when the noise level is at an acceptable level in order to resume the regular use of my office space at 557 West 7th Street. I wish that I did not have to go to the extreme measure of relocating my work space, however, after many weeks of trying to work in the loud and stressful environment created by Bigos Management / Nor-Son Construction, I have been left with no other choice.

I am also submitting another document listing the requested expenses for reimbursement. I submitted this same document to Nor-Son Construction on Dec 23rd with no response. I urge you to direct Nor-Son to pay compensation to all the tenants as part of the approval of the sound variance.

Thank you so very much,

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