

Vicki Sheffer - Fwd: Faces Restaurant entertainment license

From: Christine Rozek
To: Sheffer, Vicki; Vang, Nhia
Date: 6/1/2012 11:06 AM
Subject: Fwd: Faces Restaurant entertainment license

I will make sure that your letter is part of the record at the hearing to consider the entertainment license application.

>>> Don Jacobson <donjac1414@yahoo.com> 6/1/2012 9:24 AM >>>
Hello, my name is Don Jacobson. My address is 2106 Geranium Ave. E., St. Paul.

My 80-year-old mother, Connie Nardini, is a resident of On the Park Condominiums, whose sixth-floor kitchen window looks out onto the indoor atrium of Cray Plaza, which is currently leased by Faces Restaurant and its owner, David Fhima. Several months ago, Mr. Fhima and his associates began staging live music in this space, performances that included full bands with horn sections and amplified guitars. He did so without any prior consultation with the On the Park residents, who are separated from the atrium by merely a single pane of glass. Faces' "salsa nights" drew immediate complaints from my mother and other residents... the noise is intolerable and so loud that one has to shout to be heard within one's own condo. These big band performances lasted until 2 a.m., disrupting the residents' sleep.

Efforts to get Mr. Fhima and the individual working for him who stages these late-night parties to address the neighbors' concerns were met first with disdain and arrogance, then there were promises to turn the noise down, which didn't stick. Then the neighbors discovered Mr. Fhima was operating these parties without an entertainment license. They only stopped when this was brought to the city's attention.

The fact is the design of the Cray Plaza complex -- with its residential elements basically sharing this indoor atrium with the commercial user -- makes any type of loud events in this atrium feel like they're happening right inside in the residences. The condos weren't built with the possibility of loud events in the atrium in mind. There is no soundproofing for them of any kind. The owners of Cray Plaza need to be aware of this when they write their next lease for the Faces Restaurant space and expressly prohibit amplified music in the atrium.

In the meantime, I strongly urge the city authorities to deny Mr. Fhima a license for use of the atrium as a late-night party zone. His practices are making my elderly mother's condominium uninhabitable on weekend nights and is placing her property value in dire jeopardy.

Don Jacobson
651-501-4931 (main)
651-738-9318 (cell)

Vicki Sheffer - Re: Fwd: Faces Salsa Music

From: Nhia Vang
To: Vicki Sheffer
Date: 5/24/2012 9:01 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Faces Salsa Music

Can you make sure this is attached to the SR for Faces? Thanks!

>>> On 5/24/2012 at 9:00 AM, in message <4FBDF8C8.7AB1.00FE.0@ci.stpaul.mn.us>, Kristina Schweinler wrote:

Laurel, I will forward it to the hearing officer.

>>> Laurel Lapore <laurielapore@gmail.com> 5/23/2012 6:08 PM >>>

Hi Kristina,

I sent this email May 14, 2012 asking that David Fhima be denied an entertainment license for Faces.

I don't see my letter among those of my neighbors.

Did you receive it?

Laurie Lapore

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurel Lapore <laurielapore@gmail.com>

Date: May 14, 2012 11:40:32 AM CDT

To: Kristina.Schweinler@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Subject: Faces Salsa Music

Hello Kristina,

I live at On The Park Condominiums and recently left you a voicemail in regard to the distressing volume of this music every Friday/alternating Saturdays. It's been quite an assault on many of us here. Some of the residents here at OTP asked David Fhima to be neighborly and lower the music, to no avail.

I'm pleased that our voices have been listened to in the past few weeks and for the first time since Aug. 2011, the Atrium @Cray plaza was free of the unacceptable noise level Friday eve...May 11. However, now that the music was moved indoors, it continues to vibrate through the building...particularly the conga drums/base.

I am urging the city NOT to grant David Fhima an entertainment license at all, OR with some neighborly restrictions.

We all like living in LowerTown with it's new vibrancy and street life. We all welcomed David when he opened/reopened and wished him great success. We continue to feel this way AND we want/need to be able to live in our condos.

I'm confident we can all work together to find a suitable solution.

Laurie Lapore
OTP Condominiums