

Summit Hill Association

District 16 Planning Council
860 Saint Clair Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105
Telephone 651-222-1222
www.summithillassociation.org
info@summithillassociation.org

July 18, 2017

Barb McMonigal-St. Dennis
St. Paul Department of Safety & Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
St. Paul, MN 55105

Sent Via Email

RE: 969 Benhill Road Sound Level Variance

Dear Barb;

The Summit Hill Association Zoning and Land Use Committee (ZLU) solicited public comment regarding the requested sound level variance for 969 Benhill Road, sending postcards to neighbors within 350 feet of the residence. The postcard said: The applicants have requested a variance to allow amplified music to a level of **85 dBA within 50 feet**. The SHA ZLU is considering requesting that the St. Paul City Council limit the sound for this event to **65 dBA within 50 feet of the sound source**, as was approved by the City Council for the recent Northstar Grand Prix Bike Race for amplified music and announcements on Grand Avenue, as being more appropriate and adequate for a private event in a residential neighborhood.

We received only two comments over the two-week comment period; both were voice mails without any identification as to the name of the person who called or their address; both said they supported the variance but didn't specify which one.

The ZLU committee has voted to recommend a variance of 65 dBA within 50 feet, as was approved by the City Council in June for the Northstar Grand Prix bike race on Grand Avenue. This worked out for the event organizers and was sufficient for a crowd of a few thousand attendees. For a private party in an entirely residential neighborhood, the committee felt that this would be more than adequate and appropriate vs. the request for 85 dBA, which was the benchmark sound level for Grand Old Days, a much larger community event. Given how sound changes over distances, this allows for a higher sound level at the source, but mitigates the impact on surrounding properties.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the position SHA is taking on this matter.

Yours truly,



Lori Brostrom

Chair, Zoning and Land Use Committee
Summit Hill Association District 16 Planning Council

cc: Monica Haas, Executive Director
Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember, Ward 2
Taina Maki, Legislative Aide, Ward 2
Jennifer Coleman, Applicant