

Lloyd R. Kottke
Kathryn R. Kottke
446 Hall Avenue
St Paul MN 55107

July 6, 2023

Rebecca Noecker
St Paul City Council Ward 2
310-B City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd West
St Paul MN 55102

Dear Ms. Noecker,

RE: Sound Level Variance Request that will come before the Council on Wednesday, July 13 at 3:30pm. The requestor is Wabasha Brewing Co. 429 Wabasha Street South. Owned by Dymaxion LLC/Jason Vastine 18896 Orchard Ct Lakeville MN 55044.

I want the City Council to deny this request for the sound level variance. The zoned residential areas of the neighborhood are too close in proximity to Mr. Vastin's commercial property. Some within 100 feet. Open-air music and the clientele it will draw, especially where beer is freely available for a nine-hour event, is not acceptable to me. Being a former band member and volunteer sound technician for larger public speaking events I understand the acoustical essentials of outdoor and indoor music.

If you use a reverse feature of the Inverse Square Law, which I assumed was used to calculate the 80dB @ 50 feet figure in the sound level variance request, you will come up with an initial front of the stage sound pressure level of 114 dB. The equivalent at front of stage would be louder than a if you were 3 feet away from someone using a chainsaw (110 dB). And according to a Yale University study both 114 dB at front of stage and 80 dB at 50 feet away register above and at the level at which sustained exposure (not specified) may result in hearing loss. These results can also be verified on the Centers for Disease Control website. Look up: What Noises Cause Hearing Loss? At any rate, the point of these statistics is that this scale of loud noise does not belong in a predominantly residential area and that it also poses hearing dangers to the patrons who attend these nine-hour events. This may be a moot point because these people come voluntarily knowing the risks. Again, I want to ask the St. Paul City Council to deny the sound level variance request made by Wabasha Brewing Co. and Mr. Jason Vastine.

On a more personal basis, my property is roughly 275 feet from where the bands will be playing and I will not be able to comfortably enjoy my own patio during these events, especially with excessive sound and a nine-hour duration. Also, I am living proof of the results of prolonged exposure to excessive noise as I wear hearing aids and my hearing loss is considered profound.

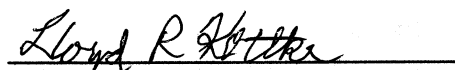
Additionally, there some important ancillary questions I would like the Council to consider, which are directly related to Mr. Vastine's quest to expand his business with no consideration to consequences and responsibility:

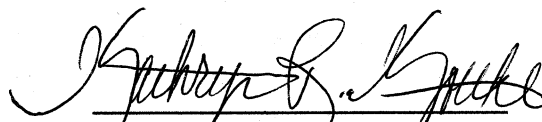
- Will someone be monitoring these bands for sound pressure level (SPL) compliance?
- Who will be enforcing the use of the SPL criteria as set forth in the variance?
- With whom can myself and my neighbors register complaints? Do we call the Police, State Patrol, Ms. Wiese of the Department of Safety and Inspections or perhaps any one of you St. Paul City Council members?
- Does Mr. Vastine have a contingency plan in place for crowd monitoring and control to keep his patrons from trespassing on the private property to the West, South and North of his establishment?
- Does Mr. Vastine have a contingency plan in place for the major increase in traffic that WILL result from his events? He wishes to have large crowds but has zero off-street parking. With cars and a food truck parked in front of his establishment presently, a person coming to Wabasha St from eastbound Isabel St. cannot make a safe right-hand or left-hand turn onto Wabasha St. because of extremely limited visibility. Although not as severe, the same is true traveling eastbound on Congress St. to Wabasha St., the sightline northbound is obscured when the business is open. Further, with vehicles parked on both sides of Congress St and Isabel St. between Wabasha St. and Hall Ave., and on both sides of Hall Ave. from Winifred St. to Delos St., will there be enough clearance for emergency vehicles to safely pass? This was a major issue when the annual Cinco de Mayo celebrations were happening in the past. Therefore, will the St. Paul Police or St. Paul Police Reserve be sending officers to mitigate traffic issues while these prolonged events are taking place?


The St. Paul City Council has, for many years, been a prime advocate of building successful small businesses, but always within reason. This variance request is not reasonable and will have far-reaching negative effects on the residential community that surrounds the business. To be clear then, I am totally and unequivocally opposed to the request for Sound Level Variance presented by Wabasha Brewing Co and Dymaxion LLC.

Thank you, Ms., Noecker for considering this presentation.

Sincerely,


Lloyd R. Kottke


Kathryn R. Kottke


Scott C. Kottke


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