

From: [Alec Wagner](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward1-7](#)
Subject: Breakaway music festival
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:01:43 AM

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Hello,

It is my understanding that the breakaway music festival that is planned to happen soon still needs to be confirmed for a permit, and there is some opposition. I wanted to provide an argument FOR approval of the festival.

Let's start with the obvious. The twin cities, despite being a major metro area - the largest in the Midwest for hundreds of miles - does not have a dedicated electronic music festival like most other major cities across the country. That is to say, why should music lovers here be forced to travel elsewhere to enjoy the music they love? We would much prefer to spend our money in our own state in our own city to spur the economy. It is a well known fact that events like this bring people in from well beyond the city as well, not only keeping our money in our own state but bringing more cash in from out of state as well. Events like this are more than just about the spending at the actual event though, when there are events like this people spend more money across all forms of entertainment - going out to eat, bars for pregaming, shopping local shops. It would be tough to overstate, as the positivity and energy from this event would be sure to spur more outings both before and after the event weekend itself. To refuse a permit now would be to cause untold financial stress on every business in the area that has been counting on this revenue coming in. Preparations have been made, restaurant supplies purchased... If there were any legitimate claim to disallow the festival from taking place, the time to do so is simply too far past. Our businesses should not and do not deserve to suffer and bleed needlessly.

As well as, this city deserves a bit of fun with the current political climate.

Thank you

From: [Win Xhe](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward1-7](#)
Subject: breakaway
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 1:28:08 PM

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PLEASE SUPPORT THE FESTIVALS REQUESTS, ITS JUST TWO DAYS OUT OF 365
THE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE FINE

From: [Leah Timberlake Sullivan](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward2](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward4](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [#CI-StPaul_Ward7](#); [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Dean Cummings](#); [The Morrows](#); [Sarah Dvorak](#)
Subject: Letter Re: Breakaway Sound Variance Request
Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 2:23:38 PM
Attachments: [Council Letter re Breakaway 2025.docx.pdf](#)

Attention Saint Paul City Councilmembers,

Please see attached letter regarding the Breakaway sound variance request.

Thank you,
Leah

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Leah Timberlake Sullivan
Executive Director
Union Park District Council
1600 University Ave W Ste 301 | Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-645-6887 | unionparkdc.org

"Many Neighborhoods, One Community"



To: Saint Paul City Council

From: Union Park District Council

Re: Support for a noise regulations variance with conditions (listed below) for Breakaway Music Festival June 6 and June 7, 2025

Councilmembers,

Union Park District Council (UPDC) respectfully urges the City Council to approve a Noise Regulations variance for Breakaway Music Festival June 6 and June 7, 2025 with the following conditions:

- o Sound will be monitored around the perimeter, with a decibel limit of 65 dBA at the each of the perimeter monitors.
- o A log of the sound levels will be kept, with the interval between documentation of the sound levels specified by the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI).
- o Reductions in sound levels will be made in real time in response to the monitored perimeter sound levels.
- o Breakaway Festival will pay for DSI staff to be present onsite to assist with sound monitoring. Reductions in sound levels will be made in real time in response to DSI instructions.
- o A community feedback line will be clearly identified. Reductions in sound levels will be made in real time in response to the feedback, even if this requires a reduction below 65 dBA at the perimeter monitors.

Background:

St. Paul's noise regulations (attached below) clearly define sound level limits based on where the sound is received, rather than where the sound is generated. Thanks to speaker technology, including noise cancelling speakers, and sound walls, sound containment is, to some degree, possible. This means that I can listen to music in my yard that is as loud as I want – as long as I contain the sound within my property. Unfortunately, as soon as the sound leaves my property, I lose my ability to control its spread.

As long as sound levels at the Breakaway Music Festival perimeter remain 65 dBA or less, UPDC is not concerned about the sound levels within the perimeter. However, if sound levels at the perimeter exceed 65 dBA, then sound levels within the perimeter must be lowered. This means that the level of sound within the Breakaway Music Festival is determined by the effectiveness of their sound containment system. In addition, we ask that a community feedback line be clearly identified, and that reductions in sound levels be made in real time in response to the feedback, even if this requires a reduction below 65 dBA at the perimeter monitors.

This approach, which is entirely consistent with the Noise Regulations' Sound Level Restrictions for Receiving Land Use (See Sec. 293.07, Table 1), rewards the use of effective sound containment while protecting surrounding properties from ineffective sound containment. For further standards and definitions of noise regulations, see Chapter 293 – Noise Regulations.

If this year's festival does not generate noise complaints, then we would be open to discussing an increase in perimeter sound level limits for future events.

Respectfully,

Sarah Dvorak
Union Park District Council President

CC: Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections

Sec. 293.07. - Noise source limitations.

- (a) No person shall operate or cause to be operated on any property or properties any source of noise or sound in such manner as to create a sound level outdoors which exceeds the limits set forth for the receiving land use classification in Table 1.

Table 1. Sound Level Restrictions for Receiving Land Use Classifications As Determined by the Location of the Receiver

Noise Receptor	Land Use Classification	Time	Sound Level Limit (One hour L10 dBA)
Class I	H1, H2, RM1-RM3, RL, F1, CO, PD	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65 dBA
Class I	H1, H2, RM1-RM3, RL, F1, CO, PD	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55 dBA
Class II	T1-T4, OS, BC, B1, B2, F2-F6, VP	At all times	70 dBA
Class III	B3-5, IT-I3	At all times	80 DBA