

From: [Laura Norén](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Sound Variance for Forbidden Festival, Sept 21st
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 11:36:34 AM

Hello-

I see that the Forbidden Festival has asked for a sound level variance for 8.5 hours on September 21st at Allianz Field.

The last time there was an event at Allianz, I could hear it and I'm a mile away. I am not alone: See [recent article](#) in The Villager.

Many neighbors are concerned with how loud these events really are. 90 dBA is loud. Listening to anything at 85 dBA or higher for longer than 8 hours - and this variance is longer than 8 hours - can cause hearing damage according to the American Speech Language Association: "[Sounds at 85 dBA can lead to hearing loss if you listen to them for more than 8 hours at a time. Sounds over 85 dBA can damage your hearing faster. The safe listening time is cut in half for every 3-dB rise in noise levels over 85 dBA.](#)"

I'm also concerned about the vagueness of their request "90 dBA at **no specified distance**". These requests for sound variance need to specify a distance or they are unenforceable. That request - and any other request that doesn't specify a distance - should be rejected until it has a measurement distance. A reasonable measurement distance should be set inside the venue so that any reading that hits ~~90 dBA~~ 85 dBA outside the venue is known to be violative. We don't need to be causing hearing loss among vendors or neighbors.

I'd strongly recommend lowering to 85 dBA and enforcing a distance for measurement.

Yours,

Laura Norén
St Paul, MN