

**From:** [jjohns007@icloud.com](mailto:jjohns007@icloud.com)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Public Hearing: Breakaway Music Festival 2025 Sound Variance Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 1:11:21 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to comment on the Breakaway Music Festival 2025 Sound Variance Request regarding the planned events on June 5-7.

For context: I live in the Shadow Falls neighborhood and experience abundant noise toxicity at my home from multiple sources. I am familiar with the science regarding the myriad adverse physical, mental, developmental, and societal harms of noise toxicity. I'm also aware of the (egregiously) excessive noise produced by the 2024 Breakaway Music Festival, which spread over a large swath of the Metro area, and surely grossly exceeded the specified limits. I have serious concerns about a possible repeat of this experience, which I consider to have been a completely preventable, man-made disaster.

My thoughts on the proposed variance are as follows:

The sound level limits proposed by DSI, even though less than requested, still seem extremely lenient. Such sound levels are potentially dangerous to those exposed to them, especially with sustained exposure, as seems likely here (multiple hours). Additionally, there is the predictably widespread annoyance, aggravation, and disruption of thought, conversation, sleep, etc., that the surrounding community likely will experience even if the limits are observed and there is no wind, and more so with non-adherence or wind, both of which are quite possible, even likely.

I see no justification for approving such a high-risk source for unconfined noise toxicity right in the middle of a densely populated residential area, especially in view of the outrageous experience with the 2024 Breakaway Music Festival. At the least, the dB limits should be lowered, monitoring should be more frequent than hourly (perhaps half-hourly?), and interventions by DSI personnel for above-limit sound levels should be immediate and consequential, e.g., performance termination ("pull the plug").

Respectfully,

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