

From: karjef@aol.com
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Nativity Country Fair sound level variance request
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2025 9:35:22 AM

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I am unhappy with and disapprove of the variance requested by the Nativity Country Fair for Sept 12-14, both for the sound level requested and the number of hours it would be in place.

As someone who lives close to Nativity, I have no objections, in general, to this fair, which always has been well attended and I'm sure brings in a lot of money for Nativity. But it does rely on the neighbors accommodating inconvenience each year in not having any on-street parking for guests, noise other than music, increased traffic, litter, etc and so they rely on the grace and good will of neighbors to have this be a success.

However, requesting to play loud music for **20** hours over this fall weekend is excessive in my opinion and is very uncaring about how this will affect hundreds of households who may find it difficult to enjoy their homes and property, get their children to bed at a decent time and just not be barraged by loud music they may not appreciate or want.

First, 85 decibels is recognized by audiologists and adopted by OSHA as the maximum level sound can be without causing hearing damage, *especially at prolonged exposures*. This means anyone even at 50 feet from the stage is exposing themselves to potential hearing damage like temporary or permanent hearing loss or tinnitus, and if they get closer to the stage it will be more a risk. It is disappointing to me that the Dept of Safety and Inspections approves allowing 20 hours of 90 decibels.

Nativity has increased the hours this Fair is in operation. They used to close it down Saturdays at 5 (I think) in order to have Saturday evening Mass, but now the Fair is running until 10 Saturday nights and they want to play loud music during those additional hours. Do they have any consideration for neighbors who might feel weary of the relentless noise? Why would they ask to start the loud music up again at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning? After playing loud music until 10:00 for two nights in a row!!

I used to attend loud music events, jazz festivals, rock concerts, but they were never held in a strictly residential area. They were indoors in an auditorium or stadium or if outdoors, in a parking lot or athletic field or even out in the country. I could make a decision about how long I wanted to stay, how close or how far from the music source I wanted to be. But I have no choices in this matter. I do not live in a commercial, business, industrial or entertainment district....I live in a densely populated residential neighborhood. What is the purpose of our having a noise ordinance for our neighborhood if variances like this are going to be approved carte blanche with no thought of modifying them to ease the noise nuisance?

I respectfully request that you look at denying the 90 decibel level and instead adopt 85, and that you limit the hours, such as no music before noon on Sunday and shortening the hours on Saturday also. Please represent your whole district and the neighbors who will be most affected, not just the wishes of Nativity Church.