SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY & INSPECTIONS (DSI)
ANGIE WIESE, DIRECTOR

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1806
Tel: 651-266-8989 | Fax: 651-266-9124

August 25, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Sound Level Variance

Minnesota Taco and Tequila Festival – Viva La Vida: Taco & Tequila Festival

Dear St. Paul Property Owner:

This is to inform you of a request for a variance from the sound level limitations as indicated in the St. Paul Noise Ordinance (Chapter 283 of the St. Paul Legislative Code). Property owned by you and located near the noise source, may be affected by this variance request. Rental property owners must provide a copy of this notice to all renters or post a copy in a common area of the building so it can be viewed by the occupants.

Description of Variance:

Location: 425 Rice Street – Parking Lot

Noise Source: Krista Wilson, Minnesota Taco and Festival Event Assistant Producer, has requested a sound level variance, for 90 dBA at no specified distance from the sound source, to present live amplified sound with use of a sound system for the Viva La Vida: Taco & Tequila Festival event on September 20 and September 21, 2025 at 425 Rice Street, former Sears Store Parking lot. The applicant has requested a variance for the hours of 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2025 and for the hours of 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2025, with a pre-event sound check from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on each day for a Minnesota Taco and Tequila Festival, Viva La Vida: Taco & Tequila Festival event. The Department of Safety and Inspections will be recommending the following conditions: 1)The Variance shall be for the requested variance hours of 11:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 205 and for the hours of 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2025, with a pre-event sound check from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on each day for a Minnesota Taco and Tequila Festival , Viva La Vida: Taco & Tequila Festival event. 2) All electronically powered equipment used in conjunction with the event shall not exceed 90 dBA at 50 feet from all sound sources during the Viva La Vida: Taco & Tequila Festival event dates. 3) The applicant shall monitor the decibel level from the variance approved distance of each noise source and create a report that records the general operating decibel levels within 15 minutes of the start of each performing act and at intervals no greater than 60 minutes apart thereafter. The report shall be made available for viewing by city staff, upon request during the variance or within 30 days thereafter. Applicant shall also conduct a decibel reading during the variance upon request of city staff. 4) All electronically powered equipment, PA systems, loudspeakers or similar devices shall be turned off no later than 8:00 p.m. on September 20 and no later than 6:00 p.m. on September 21, 2025, the event dates.

Submit comments for Public Hearing electronically. The public may comment on public hearing items in person, in writing or via voicemail. Any comments and materials submitted by 12:00 pm of the day before the meeting, Tuesday, September 9, 2025 will be attached to the public record and available for review by the City Council. Comments may be submitted as follows: Written public comment on public hearing items can be submitted to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us, CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us, or by voicemail at 651-266-6805. Live testimony will be taken in person in the Council Chambers, and by telephone by registering to speak by noon on the day before the meeting. The registration link is located on the City Council website at www.stpaul.gov/council or https://forms.office.com/g/TD3xN7WHy5.
Members of the public may view City Council meetings online at https://stpaul.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or on local cable Channel 18.

A public hearing before the City Council on this variance request will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: 3rd floor, City Hall Council Chambers
After the public hearing, the Council may grant, deny, or modify the variance request.

If you have questions about the sound level variance, please contact: Barb McMonigal-St.Dennis, Environmental Health Specialist, 651-266-8137, barb.mcmonigal-st.dennis@ci.stpaul.mn.us