McMonigal-St Dennis, Barb (CI-StPaul)

From: Andrew Davis <davisanw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 7:11 AM
To: McMonigal-St Dennis, Barb (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Dee Lauren
Subject: March of Dimes Sound Variance

Good morning,

We are residents of the Como Park neighborhood in St. Paul. We write in opposition to the request for a sound variance for the March of Dimes event at Lake Como on April 26. We oppose the request for three reasons:

First, the variance will **unreasonably disturb the quiet** at Lake Como. Lake Como is a rare place of natural beauty and quiet in an urban environment that is increasingly affected with the noise pollution, light pollution, and air pollution that is all around us and that we have, unfortunately, come to accept. The Lake and surrounding park area are home (or a temporary, migratory resting place) for numerous species of birds, waterfowl, and animals, including (this week alone) loons, owls, foxes, coyotes, eagles, falcons, and other wildlife that can be found — amazingly —in the midst of a large urban center.

Second, the variance is **unnecessary for a successful event**. We observe numerous events around the Lake, including, in the warm months, almost weekly runs/walks in support of various worthy causes. Lake Como attracts these events because of the scenic beauty and quiet of the area. The large majority of these events take place without any sound amplification from a DJ.

Third, variances of this sort create a slow, **incremental degradation of the environmental quality** around the lake that is invited in a piecemeal fashion by allowing uses of this kind. We begin to expect that the Lake will not be a place of quiet. We begin to expect that on Saturdays or Sundays, and then perhaps on weekdays, sound amplification on the lake will be routine and "normal."

Weighing these concerns against the March of Dimes' desire to host a successful event, the balance tips decidedly against a sound variance. We are confident that the March of Dimes can have a successful event without an amplification system broadcasting around the lake (who even listens to — or can understand — what those DJs are saying anyway?). Most — perhaps all — of the participants will not notice the lack of sound amplification; they will not say, "this was a great event, but if it were only louder, it would have been better"; or, rather, they will notice, because they will appreciate the quiet of the lake, which is why they've chosen to come there in the first place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Davis & Lauren Dee
1378 Como Blvd East