



Downtown Community Planning Council San Diego

December 27, 2019

Re: Noise Issues in Downtown

Dear Mayor Faulconer and Councilman Ward,

As community representatives elected to the DCPC we have frequently taken testimony from downtown residents expressing concern, frustration and anger regarding excessive noise from surrounding commercial businesses and event venues. We have acted on proposed development projects based on City recommended conditions of approval and continually sought additional advice and counsel from City staff when considering our actions on project approvals.

Balancing the rights and needs of both residents and businesses in the context of the City's outdated noise ordinances and the need to maintain a "livable" experience for downtown residents has sometimes been challenging. Adding to these challenges has been a significant number of complaints regarding post-occupancy compliance with the stipulated noise limitations, City ordinances and conditions of approval with little or no effective enforcement program.

Complaints expressed to the DCPC have identified numerous roof-top event venues, outdoor bar and hotel activities and large event sites such as Waterfront Park and Petco Park at the Park concert stage. The intensity and frequency of events in these locations throughout downtown have significantly impacted nearby residents and therefore may have a long term negative effect on the evolution of downtown as a livable city.

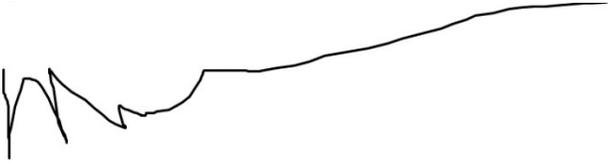
There two primary obstacles to successfully addressing these community concerns:

- **First:** The City must update its noise ordinance to reflect reasonable regulations that can respond to the needs and expectations of our downtown residents while allowing businesses to flourish. Regulations must address reasonable noise intensity, event frequency and hours of operations. Post occupancy commissioning of sound systems to confirm compliance with project approvals is also needed.
- **Second:** The City must develop and implement effective enforcement strategies that will assure ongoing compliance with project approvals. These enforcement activities must include appropriate penalties for non-compliance including temporary suspension of approvals until corrective measures are in place.

The current lack of existing policies that address these two requirements has contributed significantly to the unacceptable downtown conditions that currently exist and the DCPC encourages City leaders to take immediate action to address these issues.

We appreciate your consideration for this request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected, somewhat jagged lines that form a stylized representation of the name Michael S. Rosenbaum.

Michael S. Rosenbaum
DCPC Chair