

After Hours Concrete Installation Stakeholder Meeting #4

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:30pm

City Hall – Room 1029

Attendance: 3 staff, 1 city council aide

1. Staff Updates:

- a. Greg Guernsey (PDRD:) he concrete installation item was heard at the last Downtown Commission Meeting. The commission created a working group to explore the topic further and asked staff to hold one more stakeholder meeting to fine tune the recommendation and to contact 3 additional cities (Portland, Denver, and Seattle) to learn more about their codes related to construction noise.
- b. David Murray (Music Office:) No additional research has occurred due to SXSW related demands on staff. David did give an explanation of the difference in A- and C-weighted decibel scales.

2. Discussion:

Various organizations and groups were invited to share their ideas for proposed modifications to the temporary ordinance.

- a. DANA: No change to original recommendation (noise requirements comply with compatibility standards in subchapter E, all pouring activity stop at 10:00pm, provide notice to residents.)
- b. DAA: Feels the stakeholder group has provided a good start. DAA may decide to re-examine position in light of feedback.
- c. Rainey NA: Agrees with compatibility standards and notice elements of DANA proposal. Feels further research is needed on sound limit requirements and strengthened enforcement mechanism (possibly third party observers.)
- d. Spring Condominium Owners Assn: Supports DANA proposal.
- e. TACA: Supports a problem based solution that doesn't single out concrete installation but resolves noise issue with stepped down sound limits later in the night.
- f. Four Seasons Owners: Agrees resolution should limit noise impact, not necessarily activity.

3. Temporary Ordinance is set to expire at the end of the month. There was no clear consensus from the group on what specific action should be taken at that time, but everyone feels progress should continue on a final solution.

Closing

Final takeaway: There was consensus that a new ordinance that allows construction activity downtown with sound limits (maximum dba) and other mitigation factors appears to be supported by the majority of the participating stakeholders. However, there was not agreement on a maximum decibel limit nor when late night concrete pours would or would not cease. Everyone did agree that the City's sound ordinance should be inclusive of all sources of sound downtown and not just sound created by late night concrete pours.

Greg Guernsey reminded the group that the direction from City Council only addresses after-hours concrete installation downtown. Staff will only pursue an ordinance that meets Council's charge at this time; however, the City Council may expand the scope of the amendment if they desire.