

Carol Poore

Testimony to Alcohol License Review Commission regarding noise at the Edgewater Hotel  
September 13, 2017

My name is Carol Poore, and I have kept an apartment at XXXXXXXXX for twenty years. I live on the top floor of the Kennedy Manor, overlooking Lake Mendota and, unfortunately, the Edgewater Hotel. When I first moved here, I felt a little dubious about living on Langdon Street, but the fraternities turned out to be good neighbors, and even the one across the street that was allegedly a model for the film *Animal House* has never disturbed me.

This is not the case for the Edgewater Hotel, which in my opinion has turned out to be the worst neighbor imaginable since the hotel began playing ear-splitting amplified music outdoors on its plaza a few years ago. For several hours, two or three nights per week in the summer months, as well as beginning around 2 p.m. on some holidays, the hotel has amplified bands making noise that I think is constantly obnoxious and intrusive, often featuring non-stop yelling and drumming. Outdoor movies with amplified sound are similarly disturbing. On beautiful days when I would like to have my windows open, I am forced to close them and turn on the air conditioner to try (unsuccessfully) to block out the noise. The constant racket is so disturbing that I cannot enjoy normal conversations in my own apartment or concentrate on listening to my own music or watching TV. The noise also interferes with quiet pursuits such as reading, as well as with rest and sleeping.

Furthermore, the noise permeates our neighborhood at street level in a manner that is totally at odds with our beautiful, historic surroundings. I am very reluctant to bother the police about this matter, since they seem unable to do anything about it. Therefore, I think that the number of noise complaints made to the police over the past few years does not begin to reflect the negative impact of the hotel's noise upon the neighborhood.

At a neighborhood meeting on August 24, 2016 attended by about 40 residents, and at a meeting on May 17, 2017, attended by about 25 residents, where many people voiced complaints similar to mine, hotel representatives stated that they were taking steps to reduce the noise level. However, I have not noticed any reduction in volume whatsoever in my apartment. The noise bounces off of the hotel tower and other nearby structures, so the disturbing sounds continue to carry throughout the neighborhood.

In my opinion, the Edgewater Hotel has disregarded requests from neighbors to stop the noise and has been repeatedly disturbing the peace in our neighborhood, as defined in Chapter 24 of the Madison General Ordinances.

Years ago the old Edgewater Hotel was an elegant part of the neighborhood, and I enjoyed going there. I love Madison, and it pains me deeply that the noise from the current Edgewater Hotel is dragging down the quality of life in our beautiful, residential, historic neighborhood. It has been an enormous relief to have the noise stopped in recent weeks, although the Edgewater again showed its crass disregard for the neighborhood on August 24, August 25, and September 1, when the hotel had temporary city permits and made just as much noise as ever for hours. Therefore, I want to state in the strongest possible terms that I think the ALRC should recommend a total ban on amplified outdoor music at the Edgewater Hotel. Let the hotel put on such events inside in its ballroom, but no neighborhood should have to put up with such disturbances of the peace.

Thank you.

Carol Poore

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