

**Opposition to Current Operation of Trolley Pub Under Existing License,
on behalf of residents of Metropolitan Place (333 W. Mifflin Street)**

May 22, 2019

Comments of Residents of Metropolitan Place (Tower II). The residents described below would have no objection to the new routes in the Trolley Pub Initial-Year Application of May 7, but would object to Renewal of the current license, and request that under no circumstances shall any trolley be loaded or unloaded of any customers at any location on the Mifflin driveway to 316 W. Washington (“the Hovde Bldg”) garage or anywhere on W. Mifflin St. or on Henry Street (as is allowed under the current license).

Residential Neighborhood Disturbance. In 2018 the trolleys regularly loaded and unloaded in the Mifflin St. driveway to the Hovde Bldg garage where they were stored. The loading crowds often were wild, with group singing, pounding on the countertops. Some lasted 30 minutes. The unloading was worse, after having stopped at several bars. On the loudest days, when all 3 trolleys ran and there were back-to-back loadings and unloadings, the tumult sometimes lasted 90 consecutive minutes. Loadings started as early as noon, and a last unloading once took place at 10:30 pm. When 2 trolleys were loading and unloading at the same time, 28 customers were milling around the site. When 3 trolleys were in process at the site, there were up to 70 loading and unloading customers crowding the sidewalk and driveway and street. (We kept data with the dates and times.) Trolleys parked on Mifflin Street adjacent to the Courthouse lot were equally as loud for the residents as when in the Hovde driveway. The 2018 disturbances lasted all summer, through November 3rd. In good weather they were taking loads of 14 on each trolley, five days a week from Wednesday through Sunday.

Crowds Were Uncontrollable. We kept a record of written and oral promises made by the out-of-state ownership and by the local managers regarding various amelioration changes, and our data show that after an interim, in every 2018 case these described disturbances returned. The ownership and the managers simply were not able to control the drivers, whose tips depend on a raucous good time on board, and who frequently were unable to prevent their customers from screaming and chanting.

Safety Concerns. 1. During the loading time partiers often **decorate** trolleys parked on the street with balloons and banners and crepe paper, which placed them out in the car lane and drivers have had to veer into the oncoming traffic lane to avoid them. Some drivers became irate, honking their horns, creating a volatile situation.
2. Partiers also like to **photograph** their group posed along the street-side of the trolley, and stand at the midline of the street to get everyone in the frame. This placed them in danger of both lanes of traffic, and can lead to more confrontations.
3. A trolley headed east on Mifflin parked not parallel with the curb in front of the Metropolitan Place dog park, but **parked at an angle**, leaving its rear as an obstruction for the east-bound traffic on Mifflin, creating a dangerous situation for drivers.
4. Partiers milling around trolleys **blocked the driveway** leading to the parking ramp of Metropolitan Place, causing a driver pulling in to honk his horn angrily in order to clear the way.
The city should not allow such potentially injurious activities on a street as busy as West Mifflin. We have audio and video recordings of some of the above behaviors.
5. The **Capitol Center Apartments** also has a main entrance on this block of West Mifflin (all residents are in Section 8 Housing), and many of them use the sidewalk where the loading and unloading take place, and those with walkers and canes can have difficulty maneuvering through these throngs of partiers.
6. On occasion trolleys loaded or unloaded on Henry Street, which is a frequent corridor for the **fire vehicles** leaving Station #1. Their width and speed can create a dangerous situation for the partiers in the street.

Persons Affected. These disturbances were most audible inside the residential units of the eastern half of Tower II Metropolitan Place that face Mifflin Street, plus those on the end that are above the Hovde Bldg driveway — 46 residential units in all. During the 2018 trolley season this opposition to the renewal of the current license’s West Mifflin Street operational terms was given support by 43 of these residents. Also likely affected are the elderly residents of Capital Center Apartments, 36 units of which have windows that face West Mifflin St.

Respectfully submitted, Christopher Wilcox, unit 7090, Metropolitan Place, 333 West Mifflin Street

