

MEMO

Date: August 27, 2021

To: The City of Madison Common Council

From: Anna January, Chair, Madison Arts Commission

Dear Common Council,

On behalf of Madison Arts Commission, I write to informally request you place Resolution 66772 on file without prejudice. The resolution, sponsored by Alder Benford, proposes “restricting live outdoor music performances with amplified sound at any Streatery located within 100 feet of a structure containing a residential dwelling unit.”

The Commission met on Monday, August 23rd to discuss the resolution and hear public comment. While we acknowledge the complicated nature of the situation, MAC informally recommends that the resolution be placed on file without prejudice. Though the resolution is stemming from relatively few isolated complaints, it would affect the majority of music venues operating with a Streatery entertainment license.

According to the Greater Madison Music City Economic Impact & Mapping Report, the music ecosystem in Dane County for 2018 generated and supported a total of 5,791 jobs (1.86% of the employment in the county). In the same year, the output generated by the music ecosystem was \$636 million, its total GVA \$428 million and the total compensation of the workers was \$218 million.

Public Health restrictions related to COVID 19 have had a detrimental impact on this industry, with full-time musicians reporting a significant loss in income. The Streatery Entertainment License offered a small but important source of income, opening approximately 30 informal outdoor music venues.

Due to the large scale, detrimental effects Resolution 66772 would have on the arts community, musicians, and venues, Madison Arts Commission asks that the resolution be placed on file without prejudice. The commission believes the resolution paints with too broad a brush and would have immediate negative implications for the Madison economy overall. Furthermore, MAC is apprehensive to recommend the approval of such a regulation due to potential long-term effects. While only applied to Streatery entertainment licenses currently, instituting such a regulation in limited capacity opens the doors to broader use in the future.