

From: [Lani Schuster](#)
To: [licensing](#)
Subject: RE: Amplified noise component of the entertainment license for the Edgewater Hotel
Date: Monday, August 14, 2017 9:20:20 PM

August 14, 2017

To the Members of the ALRC,

I am writing you because due to work commitments I am unable to attend the Wed evening meeting. I want to share my story of how my "quality of life" has been *diminished* by the new Edgewater Hotel's amplified music events. As well as what my expectations are of a "good neighbor."

* I have lived downtown for almost 20 years. I moved next door to the Edgewater Hotel into the Kennedy Manor Apts., just before the original hotel was torn down. My apt. is on the other side of Kennedy Manor, facing Gilman St. and the Capitol. Prior to the completion of the new Hotel and the start of the amplified music events began, I have always been able to keep my windows open all summer long, during the day and throughout the night. On rare occasion, I would be woken up by loud voices or an ambulance. These disturbances were brief and rarely happened. I could easily fall back to sleep.

There is a misconception that the downtown is noisy and loud. I agree that certain areas of downtown can be described like that, such as State St (predominantly filled with bars/restaurants/theaters) and areas that are predominantly student housing. As a long-time resident of the Mansion Hill neighborhood, I know from experience that living next to the Edgewater Hotel *used to be quiet*.

When the series of concerts that use amplified music began, I had to begin shutting my windows during the day and at night. I no longer can take a midday nap if a band is playing or stick to my 9pm bedtime schedule, when events go past 9pm, which they often do. This greatly shortens my sleep time and makes waking at 4:30 am quite challenging. I have overslept on many occasions as well as not been able to sleep most of the night, throughout this 3 month period.

The Edgewater argues that those residents that are disturbed by the music "should just shut your windows and turn on the air conditioner!" to drown out the sound. Well, I can't afford a/c and it makes me ill. I do not have sound proof windows and turning on music inside my home *does not* create the *quiet, peaceful* environment one needs to nap, sleep, concentrate on reading a book or even balance my checkbook, and it makes it difficult to have a conversation. The volume (85 decibels) the amplified music is turned up to, still can be heard in my home, with the windows closed, music on, or wearing earplugs! And WI does not offer 12 months of open windows, so I want to keep them open every day that the weather permits. I do not want the Edgewater to choose when I can enjoy fresh air!

* Another argument made by the community that supports and even cheers the Edgewater amplified music events, **do not stay for the approximately 50 amplified events** that occurred in the months of June, July, and August or those that follow into Autumn and Winter. They get to "choose" the number of events to attend, stay as long as they want and leave when they

want to. They get to escape to their "quiet" homes, when they have had enough. Whereas, the neighbors of the Edgewater Hotel, have to leave their "once quiet home" to escape the amplified music and wait to return when it is completed. It really angers me that I am paying for rent yet have to "leave" my rented home each day these amplified music events occur!!!

*Keep in mind that downtown residents already endure multiple events throughout the year with significant time breaks between them such as: Home Coming parade, Rush week parties, Taste of Madison, Art Fair on the Square, Freak Fest, Concerts on the Square to name a few, which amplified music drifts into our open windows as well. The *difference of these events* are that they happen "one time a year!" Whereas, the Edgewater Hotel, offers 3 consecutive months, several consecutive days in a week, as well as lasting several consecutive hours in a day. One should not be asked or forced to withstand that much noise. That is not the recipe for the "Quality of Life" that we all deserve and strive to have.

*In order for the Edgewater Hotel to live up to their "stated commitment to being a good neighbor" and to reach a reasonable compromise with the neighborhood they need to take the following actions:

- 1) Lower the decibel level from 85 to 65-75.
- 2) For their multiple weekly public concert series that goes from 6-9. Reduce it to 6-8, so that the neighborhood can still enjoy their evenings at home before going to bed.
- 3) Reduce the multiple weekly public concert series to one concert per week. This is a reasonable request because it does not include their private business events or weddings.
- 4) If they decide to offer more than one public concert event we request that they not be held on consecutive days, such as: Sat and Sun or Fri and Sat. This will allow the neighborhood to have a break between events in which we can enjoy our weekend.

The Edgewater is promoting that they have invested in a band shell to appease us. However, the band shell has not yet been proven to *significantly reduce* the decibal level of the amplified noise.

The primary function of a band shell is to focus and **amplify** the music out to the audience, according to the manufacturers' website. Regardless whether or not there is a band shell, the frequency of the events (both private and public) has *greatly* increased the people and vehicle noise and traffic and parking congestion in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Lani Schuster