

**From:** [robinstehle](#)  
**To:** [Downtown Coordinating Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Mikolajewski, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** public comment for Thursday meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:30:08 AM

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I live directly behind The Harmony Bar and Grill, a restaurant on Atwood Avenue. Per the Streatery policy, this restaurant has expanded their outdoor seating and now has live amplified music three times per week. Previous to this, the Harmony had no outdoor seating or outdoor events that we were aware of. This space was a functioning parking lot.

Often, the live music is so incredibly loud that we can sometimes feel our house shaking. If we go in the backyard on these nights, we are unable to hear each other over the music. We can't open windows on these nights. The most difficult part about the music is the impact it is having on my seven month old son. His nursery is on the back side of the house, and the music is so loud that he wakes up and is usually unable to sleep in his room on those nights. It has been incredibly stressful and I am in tears writing this.

When the Streatery was first introduced, I supported the temporary policy, as I want small businesses to succeed during these challenging times. However, as the Harmony has added more and more tables, started amplifying music, and our backyard has gotten louder and louder - we are really struggling. I am opposed to making Streatery permanent. I understand supporting small businesses, but not at the expense of everyone living nearby. This bar is now advertising on their facebook page that they plan to make their patio permanent - without any input from their neighbors. I don't want to live in a house where we constantly have to hear bar patrons talking loudly a handful of feet away. (The Harmony has placed chairs and tables *directly* next to our fence.) I worry that if the music continues, we will need to move, because our kids can't sleep in that environment. When we bought our house, we didn't sign up to have a music venue in our backyard.

Having a large, outdoor music venue and 20+ table beer garden has a detrimental long term effect on the neighborhood - including decreased property values and low desirability to live nearby.

When discussing continuing Streatery, I strongly encourage you to consider the families, residents, children, and the neighborhood as a whole. Although this is a neighborhood establishment and we want this business to succeed, there must be a discussion on the overall impact of everyone that lives in the area.

Robin Stehle

**From:** [molly](#)  
**To:** [Downtown Coordinating Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Benford, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item fo 07/14/21: Comments re: Madison Streatery Program  
**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:39:02 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

As a 40+ year resident of the Atwood neighborhood in Madison, I was personally introduced to the “Streatery” program when the City expanded it to help businesses dealing with the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am aware of the unprecedented reasons for changes to the original program. I have family who operate a small business and know the struggles small businesses faced due to COVID. I have full empathy for those people.

However, when looking to expand this program, as I understand you are doing, I would ask you to very carefully consider the **residential** neighborhoods affected by *any* changes you endorse.

My property, and that of some other neighbors, abuts the parking lot of an established tavern that has turned its parking lot into a dining patio with live, amplified, music playing usually three nights a week. This established tavern, in business since 1991, had no outdoor seating prior to the pandemic. I have been supportive of their efforts to weather the rare situation created by COVID. I have purchased from them, contributed to their “Go Fund Me” effort, and put up with the inconvenience of unwanted concerts practically in my back yard in order to see them through an extraordinary circumstance.

I do not want to be forced into permanent concerts three nights a week or boisterous diners every single day and night when COVID restrictions have been lifted and the tavern’s indoor capacity can be met and maintained.

Allowing this patio dining/concert site benefits only the tavern owner. It provides *zero* benefit to the residential neighbors who have homes and families here. It adds nothing to our lives but inconvenience. And I would suggest that it detracts from the value of our homes, homes we work hard to maintain and for which we pay thousands of dollars in property taxes every year.

This business is not dependent upon outdoor dining/concerts for its livelihood. The tavern has operated very successfully since 1991. I suggest if the owner wants to develop another type of business which services outdoor dining and recreation, she could consider a more suitable location for those activities.

Besides having to deal with the unwanted concerts and noisy diners, removing all on-site parking capabilities for this tavern has created unprecedented illegal parking on our residential side streets. Since February 2021, over 265 cars have illegally parked at a busy residential intersection that sees regular, daily bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Parking issues like this are not evident when this tavern is closed.

It appears the city has surveyed the owners of establishments who operate the outdoor patios for their input on what has and has not worked. I *strongly* urge you to also survey the residents in the neighborhoods where these patios exist for their input on what has and has not worked.

Respectfully,  
Molly O’Connell  
2202 Sommers Ave  
Madison 53704

*Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.*

**From:** [Benford, Brian](#)  
**To:** [Downtown Coordinating Committee](#); [molly](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item fo 07/14/21: Comments re: Madison Streatery Program  
**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:18:03 PM

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Dear All

I hope that this note finds you well. I too want to echo what Molly has written. As the new Alderperson for District 6, this issue deeply concerns me. I find it appalling that Molly and other neighbors have had their lives disrupted and despite ongoing pleas for help, still have to deal with unreasonable noise levels. One of Molly's neighbors has a six month old child that is subjected to window rattling noise from the music coming from the Harmony. This is completely unacceptable.

At a prior city council meeting, I raised my concerns about amplified music abutting residential homes and I was told that the Streatery program would be reevaluated at the end of the summer, but this assault on the well-being of my constituents has to stop. I have reached out unsuccessful to the owner to voice my concerns. In an earlier conversation with the owner, I was told that the sound levels would be monitored and respectful of the neighborhood. This has not happened.

I cannot imagine how traumatic it would be to have to deal with this situation, especially after the last year and a half of Covid. When they bought their homes, they could never have imagine that their yards would be adjacent to a beer garden with live bands. Everyone wants to support the amazing neighborhood business that the Harmony is but not by trampling the rights of Molly and her neighbors.

Please modify this program to ensure that other people lives are not negatively impacted while we support our small, local businesses.

Best wishes  
Brian Benford

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S20 FE 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:38:49 PM  
**To:** [dcc@cityofmadison.com](mailto:dcc@cityofmadison.com) <[dcc@cityofmadison.com](mailto:dcc@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Cc:** Rummel, Marsha <[district6@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district6@cityofmadison.com)>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item fo 07/14/21: Comments re: Madison Streatery Program

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