

From: [Benford, Brian](#)
To: [Madison Arts Commission](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 2
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Madison Arts Commission
Agenda Item 2

Hi everyone.

I hope that you all are well. As the sponsor of this agenda item to amend the Streatery program, I wanted to pause and offer my intent.

This amendment was only intended to impact Steateries that play amplified music that directly borders family homes. Homes with people that had laid their foundations long before the Streatery program was enacted. Long before the pandemic. For me, as a father of five, this is mostly about a mother, father and baby who bought their home before the pandemic; and like all of us-continues to suffer from the uncertainties of the pandemic; but on top of this, no they have no control over amplified music blasting their lives-their home.

To be as clear as I possibly can, this is not about folks practicing, not about Make Madison Music; not street festivals; not about venues that already host live amplified events. (Sylvee); not about acoustic music. This is only about protecting the sanctity of existing homes that directly border the boundaries of a Streatery.

Now I know those of you who have never directly cared for a young baby-or perhaps your children have grown up-might not know/remember what it is like to care for an infant. Before this program, neighbors had their backyards only connected to a parking lot. Now they have a beer garden with amplified music -as almost literally in their backyards. Perhaps some of you don't care, or my words cannot resonate, but I must always advocate for our babies and families well-being first and foremost.

I personally applaud and support the Streatery program as I have more establishments in my district than others. This change does not impact even a fraction of the current venues and will not be permanent as the program ends in April of 2022. Truth be told, my constituents have only raised concerns about two venues, and when I spoke with the original sponsors of this program, they understood and support this amendment because of their concern for families that have been negatively impacted.

It should be noted that each neighbor directly impacted by amplified music, that have raised concerns, have supported their neighboring establishment for years. Even donated to their go fund me pages during the pandemic. For decades, these establishments hosted live music indoors with no concerns. In striving to support our vital small businesses, I was thrilled about the Streatery program as I took office.

So, you might see how I am completely dismayed that somehow this issue is perceived as some attacks of the arts as I discovered on social media. Longer than some of these commentators have been alive, I have personally supported and selfishly benefited from the arts. In my 35 years of service to children and families, I have opened doors and facilitated marginalized neighbors to have access to the arts. This is not about supporting the arts but rather, supporting my constituents rights to live in peace.

I hope that this helps to frame my intent. Take care and if you have any questions-please don't

hesitate to write me at district6@cityofmadison.com

Brian Benford

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