



DENVER  
INC

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Neighborhoods work better when they work together.

## Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

September 18, 2014

Doug Linkhart, Manager  
Denver Department of Environmental Health  
[doug.linkhart@denvergov.org](mailto:doug.linkhart@denvergov.org)

### Re: Motion on Revising the Neighborhood Noise Ordinance

Dear Doug,

Founded in 1975, INC's mission is to advocate for Denver citizens by bringing together, informing and empowering Denver neighborhood organizations to actively engage in addressing city issues. INC is an association of approximately 100 Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) from neighborhoods throughout Denver.

We are aware that Bob McDonald has been working in secret on revisions to Denver's noise ordinances and that his first draft is being circulated among "internal stakeholders". To date, the neighborhoods have not been asked for their ideas. This is very disappointing Doug, because, as you are aware, INC has been very vocal in asking for both transparency and early involvement in the City's planning processes.

It is with the hope that you will still be willing to consider a seat at the table for INC, that we submit the following Resolution passed at the monthly INC Delegate meeting on September 13, 2014. This Resolution was first brought forward by the INC Parks and Recreation Committee, revised by the INC Executive Committee and sent to the Delegation. The vote for approval was by 25 in favor with 4 opposed and 2 abstentions.

#### INC Resolution on Revising Neighborhood Noise Ordinance

- ⌚ WHEREAS, the City of Denver Noise Ordinance, Section 36 sets the limit for sound in neighborhoods at 55 dB(A), and
- ⌚ WHEREAS, Sec. 36-6(b) (17) gives an exemption to festivals and raises the limit for sound to 80 dB(A), and
- ⌚ WHEREAS, under the current ordinance definitions, only dB readings at (A) levels are required which does not measure the different frequencies, and
- ⌚ WHEREAS, low frequency sound waves dB(C) are long, can actually travel through buildings and be heard and often can be felt, and
- ⌚ WHEREAS, the current ordinance was promulgated some years ago before the advent of the Admission Based Event policy and the significant increase from a few hundred to more than 800 events a year in Denver, including in Denver parks, and
- ⌚ WHEREAS, at the time this ordinance was promulgated 80 dBs(A) was interpreted to be an acceptable level for sound in residential area when there were few permitted events in parks, and,
- ⌚ WHEREAS, the 80 dB(A) sound level associated with these frequent events in parks has become the norm, has disrupted the quality of neighborhood life on a regular basis and has created an ongoing and intolerable condition which, the 55 dB level was intended to address, now therefore,

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- ⌚ BE IT RESOLVED, that INC calls upon the City of Denver to begin a collaborative, thorough, and thoughtful public process in order to revise the Noise Ordinance so that it is specified how sound pressure is measured, by whom, and when during an event, and to state the maximum level of sound pressure is 55 dB(A) & (C) in neighborhoods in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for Denver's residents.

I, along with a few neighborhood leaders, would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and Mr. McDonald to learn more about his proposal and to discuss how to allow for public input into the process of policy development and decision making.

Respectfully yours,



President, INC

Cc: Mayor Michael B. Hancock  
Denver City Council  
Laurie Dannemiller  
Michael Sapp  
INC Executive Committee  
INC PARC