

# Citizen Comments – MU-1 District Noise Ordinance Proposal Open House Meeting

April 4, 2022, Baca Center

Below are the written comments received at the open house meeting.

- I like the restaurants and the downtown bars. What I'd like better controlled is the drinking. Too many patrons are coming out of the bars heavily intoxicated. They are not being cut off from becoming totally drunk.

I'd like to see better control of cars leaving the bars. They are driving too fast and playing music too loud.

Lastly, I'd like to see foot patrols at closing time to control patrons going into private yards to urinate, etc.

--Jesus and Emilia Franco  
208 S. Blair Street

- Why is it so hard to please the few affected who live downtown? Maybe the rent is too high downtown so bars have to work harder to make ends meet...How do I get "sound" relief from cars with illegal exhaust?

--Pam York

- Thanks for the presentation. My wish is to have noise ordinance as it is currently written. No rationale for increasing decibels for Friday/Saturday nights.

--Gordon Perez

- I'm against changing the 1-year ban to 6 months. When you have 3 violations, your bar should be banned from playing music for 1 year. I'm okay with going to 2 am music on Friday and Saturday nights only.

--Wendy Conklin

- I recommend raising the MU-1 ordinance as follows:

- Day limit: 68 decibels
- Night limit: 88 decibels
- Hours: Wednesday/Thursday until 11:30 pm and Friday/Saturday until 1:30 am

Residential night limit of 50 decibels at 200 feet is equal to 69 decibels at the property line. Thus, the MU-1 night limit is below the residential limit and must be raised.

--Todd Leach

- Up the hill! I have several suggestions.
  - No outdoor karaoke—lots of people do not sing well!
  - Proposed hours until midnight Sunday-Thursday. We have many school-aged children in our neighborhood. Proposed hours until 1:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights. 2 AM is ridiculous...Crime increases! And it can't be a healthy environment.
  - Noise—I feel that the current 80 dB is ok if they are keeping it at that level. I also believe about the penalty: Two warnings should mean 1 month, no music and a \$1,000 penalty. The reason for giving them a quicker penalty is to get their attention—money involved may keep it serious to them. Then, if they get a 3rd penalty—6 months—and maybe a \$2,000 penalty. After 6 months, it starts over: it's very serious if they get that first new warning—money penalty will also get their attention seriously. Please consider the 1 am as the latest time!

--Patti Jordan

- The noise levels are already lasting until 1:30-2:00 am. This is disruptive. The bass (drums) rattle my windows and wake me up.

I've been told that officers are already in the neighborhood, but the noise still rages on.

It often takes an hour for noise levels to drop, but once the levels drop, almost exactly one hour later, the levels rise again.

I feel like such a rat by calling and reporting noise levels, but it does interfere with our quality of life; specifically, our sleep.

We were here first. We did not buy into the bar district. The penalty should be on the bar, not the residents.

One neighbor used to sleep with windows open in mild weather in spring and fall. They can't do that anymore.

During the day, ambient noise levels cover loud noises. At night, when ambient traffic noises fall to almost nothing, the bar noises are more noticeable. Switch daytime noise levels to 8-, and night decibels to 60.

Some bars pass out headphones (or equivalent) so that patrons can dance to music that no one else hears at all.

If music must be ramped up to be heard over the talking, lower the music and people won't have to yell to be heard, and the music won't have to be so loud, and residents won't be disturbed.

Please don't expand hours to later to torment us every night of the week.

Keep decibels within the four walls.

Don't reward violators with less of a penalty. They know the rules. Make them keep their word and not torment their neighbors. Keep the existing rules.

--K. Kistner

- The noise is so loud on weekend nights that it rattles my windows. It seems that the bass is the culprit.

I cannot believe that that keeping the music lower will take away the ambience of the bar or club.

Having the restrictions loosened is not the answer.

Do not make Downtown Round Rock another 6th Street.

You people should know that the reason that more people have not complained about the noise is because of the pandemic. If you raise the limit of decibels during weeknight and weekends, more people will complain, and we will have to revisit this problem.

I think you should have a 2-month trial for this and see how many people complain about the noise.

--Doc Kistner

209 N. Stone Street

- To muffle some of the sound (music) leaving the property, could the business/city install some acoustic sound barrier to capture it? The cantina owner was interested in exploring the idea. Possibly a cool art installation on the limestone wall of the old library leading to the outdoor bar deck areas would look interesting and serve a purpose, too.

--Klein

42 College Street

- The hours will be 10 until 2 am? Sunday-Thursday. There are school-aged children who live in the neighborhood; this will affect them adversely. Being an educator, I see this firsthand.

What about the library, as well? It closes at 8 pm—libraries are somewhat quiet; will this not have an adverse effect on it, as well?

Please DO NOT adjust the time from midnight to 2 am because the residents deserve to have their rest as it is an older neighborhood of people who have lived there for generations. They were there first and deserve so much better than to cater to the businesses. No one is asking that the businesses leave so how fair is it to ask that the residents do to find peace?

--[No name provided]

- Keep the decibels at 80 or below—honor and uphold this.

Continue police presence and enforce noise consistently.

Bring more police in downtown and the streets near downtown bars.

Keep the penalties high.

Consider sound barriers.

--Lisa Adams

- Re: MU-1 Revisions:

Extended time frames [are] okay with current noise level constraints.

Current penalties for 1 year obviously work or there'd be no call to make it less. Increase in fines might help.

Mandatory use of noise absorption barriers would solve most residents' complaints. There are many types and styles, available in permanent or temporary.

I call the non-emergency police line too often over band/noise from Woodbine Mansion. I understand it's not MU-1 and has different rules. My concern is when the volume starts to rattle the windows.

Love exposure to high decibel noise is known to be a health hazard and is also a well-known means of criminal extraction used on M. Noriega in Panama by US military and on the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas by U.S. Government Agents. It shouldn't be used on R.R. Residents.

--Pete Daughtrey

602 E. Main Street

- I am in favor of extending the decibels until 2 am. I live downtown and I like the quality of life and with that comes SOUND, music, and drinking.

I have many friends that love downtown Round Rock and what is happening here. It would be a shame to go backwards.

--Brad Morrow

702 E. Austin Ave

- What are the crime stats downtown from midnight until 2:00 am?

--[No name provided]

- Have you considered the new apartments/condos that will be located on McNeil and the impact any increase in hours and volume will be?

How does Round Rock sound limits/regulations/hours compare with Austin or other cities?

What are the requirements going to be for the new amphitheater venue?

--Bill and Elizabeth Klein  
College Street

- I'd like to have the downtown bars that have outdoor music be required to install some form of soundproofing to capture the noise on site.  
--[No name provided]

- Would prefer to stop music at midnight, not 2 am. Keep decibels.  
--[No name provided]

- Existing noise ordinance is working well. Please do not change it at all.  
--Cathey Carter

- I think the new proposal moves too much in the other direction, especially on school/work nights. I think that it needs to stay quieter after 10 pm weeknights. Also, after midnight on Friday and Saturday.  
--Roger Ludlow

- I still think the limit should be 75, not 80 decibels—especially since this is amplified music.

I think the 3rd violation penalty should remain at 12 months, unless the 2nd violation is changed to for 3 months.

Loudspeaker placement is critical—how can this be checked/reinforced occasionally without burdening the police officers?

Thank you all for working on this.  
--Greg Kirwin