

NOISE ORDINANCE DISCUSSION – PUBLIC OPINION

IN ORDER AS RECEIVED (March 24, 2021 COSM Legislative Session)

Note: If you sent an email and we missed it please let us know at info@stmichaelsmd.gov. We received so many and hope we got them all.

Tad,

Thank you for addressing this issue. The situation was unacceptable last summer. As more focus is placed on outdoor dining, things may worsen without action. Mulberry Street residents were quite upset. Outdoor music is too loud if the lyrics can be heard inside a closed house.

My suggestions for more compatible co-existence for all involved:

1. Lower the current allowable decibel level. The current maximum level is too high for residential neighborhoods. This should include clarification that the decibel level is properly measured at the site of origin. Last year the police were measuring the level at the property of the complaining property owner.
2. No outdoor amplification should be allowed with exceptions of concerts, etc. Between the harbor and Talbot St., it can sound like the battle of the bands. Amplification should not be necessary to entertain business patrons.
3. The harbor must be included as well. Last summer, a very large boat with a massive music system was blasting at full volume. The person in charge at the harbor said there was nothing he could do and the boaters would be going to dinner soon.

Walda DuPriest-Brandt
111 Mulberry

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Thank you, Tad, and many thanks also for your comment at the last Commissioners' meeting pointing out that residents take a disproportionate hit on what the town does to encourage tourism.

I fully support what you are proposing and also fully agree with all of Wanda's excellent suggestions, especially her point about amplification being inappropriate with the exception of concerts and special events. It was not just Mulberry Street residents who were bothered by the loud music last summer: I came to dread Fridays and Saturdays as I could hear The Galley Restaurant's outdoor amplified music inside our house (on Grace Street, the other side of Talbot!) where all the windows were closed as the A/C was on. I would imagine it must also have been hard on guests at The Old Brick Inn.

I will listen in at the meeting next week and be ready to chime in. I will also pass the

word to others.

Karen Wald

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Hello Tad, I wanted to reach out to you on two major noise issues in the St. Michaels historic district that the COSM need to address.

First, residents of Mulberry Street are welcomed on many very early mornings by the noise and vibration of trash removal trucks hired privately by the restaurants, marinas, bars at the foot of Mulberry Street. These businesses have every right to have their substantial amount of refuse hauled away. But these trucks barrel down this residential street between 5:30-6:30 a.m. Residents not only hear these loud diesel engines and the resulting vibrations, they also hear the dumpsters being lifted, their large meal doors clanging and the safety horns beeping as these trucks back up to turn around. And then they exit as noisily as they arrived. The Town needs to force these businesses and their refuse partners to haul trash after 8 a.m. or some later hour.

Second, there is a growing trend for businesses on Talbot Street to hire bands and musicians to entertain patrons and attract business during evening hours. These sessions are heavily amplified with significant amounts of "noise leakage" extending up and down residential streets running off Talbot Street. One evening this music was so loud I called the St. Michaels Police Department and was told basically to bug off, that these merchants had the right to do this and the police could not stop them. I would add that the Saturday night band at Foxy's is amplified so loud that it can be heard hundreds of yards away until late in the evening. This is yet another example of the growing noise pollution enveloping our town.

These situations are good examples why the town needs to develop a more effective, modern noise code and have it enforced. It is also a good example of the growing imbalance between the never-questioned needs of our local merchants and the desire of residents to enjoy their homes free of intrusive, unnecessary noise that is driven by businesses that appear to have scant regard for the interests of homeowners. We want businesses to prosper. But we do not want to turn this town into a 24/7 theme park where inhabitants are chased away by businesses that refuse to allow responsible civic regulation by town authorities. This issue also goes to noise, traffic and congestion from the endless parade of so-called "festivals" which are steadily degrading the quality of life for anyone in St. Michaels that doesn't own a business on Talbot St. The time has come for the COSM to take responsible action and begin to restore balance between those who live here and those who earn a living on Talbot Street. The two should be able to coexist, but that can only happen if those who are elected are willing to restore a balance that serves the interests of both residents and businesses. Please feel free to share this email with anyone interested in dealing with the growing noise problems in St. Michaels.

Daniel Spiegel

200 Mulberry St.
St. Michaels, MD 21663

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Hi I have been told that the COSM is meeting to discuss the noise that has been growing over the past years in STM. STM is slowly becoming a theme park on the weekends for drinking and partying, with loud music billowing into our houses and inebriated patrons trashing our streets in the historic district. On top of the parking issues the historic district faces, here are some other issues that we constantly are dealing with that make it not a fun place to live during "TOURIST SEASON". I hope that COSM can work with the businesses to figure out a way to control their patrons and limit the disturbance of the peace for the people that have to live here. In 2020, despite the pandemic, the level of noisy visitors to town has been greater than I have ever seen.

Stefanie Brady
403 Water St.

Municipal Traffic Noise Prior to 7 am:

- There is growing noise prior to 7 am. I understand in a big city like NYC and Baltimore the need to have this work performed prior to rush hour, but STM doesn't have the rush.
- Street cleaning every Friday around 6 am making multiple passes with lights flashing.
- Restaurant trash removal all days of the week between 5 – 7 am. Loud trucks and banging of dumpsters.
- Construction on the new buried gas tanks starting around 6 am and lasting all day with house vibrations similar to earthquake.

Restaurant Noise - General:

- Amplified music (that in the restaurant is even too loud for a conversation) that takes away from us enjoying our yards.
- Music along the waterfront has become excessive all hours of the day.
- Being on Water St., the music at Harrison's all day is excruciating. One cannot stay outside and get away from the party scene the town has become!

Restaurant Nuisance – After Hours:

- The noise of loud patrons and staff exiting the restaurants at "closing time" and later is excessive.
- People are loud, yelling in the streets as they try to get to their cars.
- Excessive trash of empty drink cups and cigarettes are constantly littering Water street where Sunday morning we are out having to clean up the trash.

General Safety Issue

- Excessive speeding down Water St after 10 pm. There are some folks that excessively speed down Water St. between 10 pm – 2 am. At speeds that are well above 40 mph+.

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As a fulltime resident of Mulberry Street, on the harbor side, I am very concerned about some restaurants that increasingly relied on loud music to attract customers in this past year. Granted, it was tough for everyone to adjust to pandemic conditions. However, I do not want another summer & fall where restaurants like The Galley hire redneck bands & other electronically amplified performers to play on their paved parking lot in back, reverberating throughout our historic neighborhoods. My family visited from Chicago the last Saturday in October & the singer at the Galley that night drowned out our attempts at conversation inside, in my living and dining rooms, while we attempted to celebrate a birthday.

Online real estate services like [Realtor.com](https://www.realtor.com) & Zillow now rate noise level on their listings, so I don't think unregulated loud music will do anything positive for St. Michaels' real estate values. Instead of attracting fulltime residents, parking lot concerts cater to boaters and the party crowd for transient rentals, at best. I understand that we want visitors to feel welcome & spend money in our town, but there has to be a balance of concern for residents, as well.

Appreciate your discussion of appropriate noise level regulation at your upcoming meeting.

Barbara O'Brien
105 Mulberry St.

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Jean,

I'm away and probably won't be able to zoom into the COSM meeting tomorrow on the 24th. I did review the agenda and noticed that the Town noise ordinance is on the agenda. Here I would like to note my comments on this issue.

I believe that the music level at our bars and restaurants is becoming increasingly loud and going beyond the usual Friday/Saturday nights schedule- starting on Thursday and going into Sunday evening. That's four days out of the seven day week! And til 10 in the evening?

SM is a small, relatively quiet town which attracted many current residents and second property owners. Most would agree there is a place for live music but as the town increasingly draws larger crowds, businesses appear to be increasingly the frequency, loudness and late hour of their music offerings. Does the music level for patrons within 50 - 100 feet have to be so loud and go on to 10 PM (my bedtime) 3-4 nights a week? It's time to balance residents' concerns with those of our local businesses. I'm sure a middle ground exists.

John Novak
104 West Chew Ave

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Jean - I have a copy of Dan Spiegel's March 20 email to Commissioner DuPont regarding noise in town. I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Spiegel's points and urge the commissioners to take action. I might add that in addition to the early morning noise at Foxy's is the early hour trash collection at Harbour Inn, which reverberates up and down Town Creek. A heavy metal concert in stereo.

Also, the provision of our code that takes sound measurements from the recipient's property line rather than the source property line, in addition to resulting in misery for the residents, results in a honky-tonk atmosphere on Talbot Street. There is no "recipient's property line" for pedestrians on the street. If we want Talbot Street to sound like the boardwalk or Broadway in Nashville, it should be the result of a considered decision by the town commissioners and not the self interest of some of the merchants. Clearly, sound measurement at the source is part of the solution.

Kindly share this with the commissioners. Thanks.

Doug Rollow
405 Water Street

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Hello Jamie. I am born and raised in St. Michaels and the changes in St. Michaels are very disheartening. The most genuine feature of this town has always been the tight bond between the neighbors of the community. Over the years, this has been lost in everyone's own motivations and concerns only for themselves. The fact that some neighbors are trying to take away outside music on Sundays is a prime example. Sunday afternoons have always been a time for the local community to get out and enjoy live music with their neighbors after a weekend of the town being flooded with tourists. I am quite sure the community members who are behind this petition came here to visit on a weekend and enjoyed our town, including live music and now that they live here have had a change of heart. "Not in my back yard" should not be brought into town policy just because they bought a property in our wonderful community. Also, after we have all been in our homes and extradited from being a part of society and going to bars and restaurants, we all just want to feel normal and a part of a tight knit neighborhood. The musicians and restaurant owners have struggled for over a year and now that things are looking up, they are being chastised once again. Please consider the feelings of the entire community and not just a small group. Thank you, Jena Lindsay. 100 East Marengo Street

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Jamie:

I want to express my views on these people who want to take away business and jobs from our local restaurants and musicians, I am a local professional musician and I live and play in St Michaels and love this town. If you cut back on live music in this town, you take away part of our livelihood, as many our musicians are full time you are taking

money out of everyone's pockets, since I live here I only play on this part of the Eastern Shore and I choose to do so to support our local businesses like, Foxy's, Carpenter Steet, Corah's Corner and many more, so putting restrictions on live entertainment effects all of these businesses and the musicians who play to support them.

I have over two hundred people on my personal mailing list plus many more on my Facebook who follow me, also many of the people who follow me live out of town so when they are coming into town they contact me to see where I am playing so they can stop by, have a meal some drinks and listening to live music, so if I tell them that live music has been cut back they are not coming to St Michael's, as often as they would like to leading to lost business for St Michael's.

If the commission puts strict rules on live music then they may as well stop the bells in the church in town, ringing on Sundays so that it will not wake up their babies. This is not a retirement town it depends on tourism, let's build it not destroy it.

I hope you can read this to your group at the meeting

Disappointed

Joe Hickey

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Please vote "no" to the ill considered, disastrously timed, and absolutely disgusting ban on live music on sundays.

It's obvious that at least one of the commissioners wants to sneak this through in the dark of a pandemic where opposition voices can't be heard.

In this time of covid 19, this ban does nothing but hurt small businesses in town, both musicians (isn't that one of the reasons you moved here in the first place? The artistic community?) And the venues which host music performances on Sunday.

Even if the ban made any sense at all, which it clearly doesn't, the timing of it, when small businesses and micro businesses are struggling to stay in the marketplace beyond the pandemic, is more than just suspect, it's arguably openly corrupt. The optic is that the commissioners want to sneak bad, unwanted ordinances onto the town's books in the dark, because it's a handy way not to give voice to opposition.

Thank you

Ward Ewing

100 east marengo St..

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Members of the Commission,

As we are prepare for what we hope will be a more "normal" summer in 2021, I do hope that you are seriously considering the conversation occurring with regard to levels of sound. As a resident of St. Michaels, last summer delivered a new level of noise. I certainly recognize that businesses were struggling to survive, and I applaud how hard our entrepreneurs worked. That said, the level of amplified music was too high. I could easily sit in my back yard and not only hear, but be bothered or entertained by whatever

music was playing at The Galley. I am all for music, and want to support these businesses, but for everyone's interest to be served, I believe it is time to develop an ordinance that will be adhered to.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Kennedy

406 St. Mary Square

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My name is Jeffrey Tribbitt Sr. I stand strongly against the noise ordinance! My opinion is if the musicians played acoustic instruments that would be too loud! People have too much time on their hands to complain about noise coming from music in a small town! Just like the church bells or music being played is too loud! They keep on complaining and we will not be able to enjoy ourselves with entertainment of any kind! They keep on and musicians will not have a place to play and entertain people! Not the ones complaining they could be careless about our music in town! It is sad to set a town ordinance for music being played for years! I again say I am against the noise ordinance for music!

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Good morning Jamie,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to you to express my opposition to the proposal to ban outdoor music on Sundays in St. Michaels. I hope to join the zoom meeting later on today however I thought it best to put it in writing as well. As you know Marise and I live on Green St. and have enjoyed having live music at our front door steps. Even during the pandemic last summer we could sit safely in our yard and listen to music.

There are a number of reasons to reject this proposal however I think the main one has to be consideration for the musicians and business owners that have lost significant money last summer due to the pandemic. Many of these musicians have not recovered from those losses and are looking forward to returning to some normalcy this summer and recovering from their losses. I hope this proposal gets rejected and allows the commissioners to focus on other more important issues. Hope to see you tonight on Zoom.

Thanks and have a great day,

George Galgano

111 Green St.

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RE: Opposition to stricter noise ordinance M-F and Sundays

As Town residents we recognize the importance to balance the views of tourists and

residents alike. Implementing a stricter noise ordinance Monday through Friday and a moratorium on music on Sundays not only hurts businesses, but takes away entertainment from residents. The current ordinances in place are more than sufficient and consistent with similar waterfront towns throughout the state, in fact, some are even later - 10PM (North Beach, MD). We cannot be a Town that relies on tourism and supports our local community but restricts the things that make the town appealing such as live musical entertainment and events hosted by the local community and local entertainers. This one-sided resident viewpoint does not take into account the impact it would have on the Town overall. Compromise is key but aggressive ordinances and moratoriums are not the answer. If anything, Monday-Thursday could be limited to 8PM, however a Friday 8PM curfew and full moratorium on Sundays is **egregious**. Even if St. Michaels wasn't a tourism town, a moratorium on music for a day is unheard of.

John Echard
Eric Tomlinson
108 Mitchell Street

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Jaime,

I'm writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed strict noise ordinances and live music(indoor and/or outdoor) not being allowed on Sundays.

Our musicians and restaurants have already had a tough year with COVID. This will be another jab towards them. These newly proposed restrictions will affect business and musicians alike whether the business has live music.

People organize their day around these live entertainment events especially within the service industry. They will base their day around where they're going for live entertainment, shopping, food and beverage. It is proven surrounding businesses benefit from these live performances as well.

A prime example of this is when a family chooses to go out. What may have been planned as just a day/night visit to Foxys to listen to music, has now turned into fun at Foxys, some shopping and ice cream at Justine's.

I strongly encourage everyone to think about the consequences of these newly proposed sound ordinances and how much they will affect our town.

Regards,

Austin Smale
General Manager
Limoncello Italian Wine Bar & Restaurant

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Really? No music on Sundays. How about no laughter as well? Just close all restaurants and see what happens to your tax base. Change catch phrase to St. Michael's, the town that fooled itself.

Keep music on Sundays.

Barry Smale

7574 17th Dr, Easton, MD 21601

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Jean,

First I would like to apologize as I "Jonathan Clarke- Manager of the Log Canoe Inn" will be unable to attend the town ordinance meeting tomorrow on March 24, but would like to email you my opinion on the Noise ordinance review. The Log Canoe Inn is at the foot of Carpenter street next to Higgins Yacht Yard. Sundays we find should be a day of rest. Last year we had numerous guest that complained about the music on Really? No music on Sundays. How about no laughter as well? Just close all restaurants and see what happens to your tax base. Change catch phrase to St. Michael's, the town that fooled itself.

Keep music on Sundays.

Barry Smale

7574 17th Dr, Easton, MD 21601

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Sunday and Saturday at a local establishment being too loud and using profanity to a point of our guests leaving our property for the day. We have called the St. Michaels Police department and voiced our opinions with them on occasional weekends but we did not see a change. I strongly encourage the town to really think about the decision tomorrow night, not only for the Log Canoe Inn but for the Town residents, transient guest, and other local establishments that the noise ordinance will be affected by with the decisions that our commissioners make.

Kind Regards,

Jon

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To the Town Commissioners of St. Michaels, Maryland,

My name is Pete Baker, I am a resident of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and have been a full time musician for nineteen years. I have been playing in St. Michaels since 1998, and have been a walking, talking billboard for your town since then. My regular gigs, usually three hundred a year take me far and wide throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington, DC, West Virginia, and Virginia. I tell

everyone about St. Michaels, and encourage them to make it a destination stop or a break on their drive to and from the beach. They all come, and love the eclectic charm of the town, the restaurants, and the many choices in live music all within walking distance. It is a wonderful atmosphere to behold, and be a part of. Without live music, you are left with shops and restaurants, which make it basically a shopping mall. It would be a shame to make such a unique and wonderful place more ordinary and mundane for the sake of the small percentage complaining.

In addition, being deeply entrenched within the food service community, I must say that we have all had the most financially difficult year of our lives. Many places have closed, and many are operating at a fraction of what they are used to. We are so excited to see the pandemic restrictions being slowly relaxed and have been looking forward to making a living wage again. So many lifetime residents of St. Michaels work in this industry. Please keep St. Michaels charming, eclectic, and community minded.

Thank you for listening,
Pete Baker

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Good Afternoon Jamie!
Jeff Joseph...102 N Harbor

I just want to provide some feedback on the potential Sunday outdoor music ordinance.

First and foremost, the town should not adopt anything that promotes moving outdoor gatherings inside during a pandemic. It is simply counter to everything the Governor, President and CDC are recommending.

Secondary reasons to reject such an ordinance include.....

- Sunday is the day many locals are able to get out and enjoy our town. Tourism is the lifeblood of our economy, but crowds during peak times make it less enjoyable, less accessible to service workers and more dangerous during COVID.
- Many local musicians rely on being able to work every day during our shortened season. This has become even more crucial with the loss of income during the pandemic.
- Venue owners, also impacted, have invested significant capital based on existing laws. It is unfair to simply change the rules right before their peak season. Don't forget that this may impact the museum and IPC!
- Isn't there an existing noise ordinance? Is it being violated....enforced? Effective adherence and enforcement of existing rules should be examined before creating additional restrictions.
- It's not just for the bars. Events that bring people out spur other economic activity...people shop and eat when they are out.
- Even the tourism is helped. I used to be involved in the Rehoboth Chamber. They actually encouraged Sunday events, as it has been shown to keep visitors in town longer.

Sorry for the long note....in just think this is short sighted, benefits few and can hurt

many!

Sincerely

Jeff

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I like the Church bells and other
Music on Sunday as long as it complies with noise level limits

Doris Theune

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Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to you in regards to the noise ordinance review that is scheduled on this evening's agenda.

It has been brought to my attention that there has been discussion of banning the outdoor music on Sundays and modifying the current ordinance to adjust the time and decibel levels of the music.

I personally believe in making business, environmental and social legislative decisions that are for the good of the entire town and not specific to any special interest groups. With that said, I am always willing to listen to both sides of a debate and attempt to understand where each "side" is coming from.

My specific issue with tonight's noise ordinance review is actually much larger than the topic of the live music. My greatest issue is the lack of discussion or input that the town Commissioners seek from our town's business owners. Decisions are made with out any consulting of the businesses that will be impacted. To add something to an agenda with zero communication to the local businesses that will be impacted is inequitable.

Over the past year, our town has experienced significant financial and social hardships due to the COVID19 pandemic. We have had to adjust our personal and professional lives to accommodate the constant changes that were thrown at us due to restrictions and social distancing. This effort has become exhausting for every small business owner. Some of us have not survived and that is very sad.

During this past year, NOT ONE Commissioner has reached out to me or other businesses to receive feedback or request information on how we are doing, where we need help or to discuss how potential changes will impact the viability of our businesses. If I were a Commissioner, I would want to reach out to the business community to better educate myself on the hardships businesses may be encountering prior to enforcing any mandates or modifying current ordinances. I did appreciate the

creation of the committee to address temporary measures during the pandemic, so I applaud that proactive effort. There needs to be better communication between the town and the businesses. Perhaps schedule a meeting between the commissioners and business owners?

My restaurant is in the center of the town and I have a VERY strong local clientele. I have made an effort to introduce myself to almost every customer and I now know almost everyone by first name. I am in my business every day and I hear the dissatisfaction from community in respect to the continued attempt of government overreach from some of our current town commissioners.

People are under the impression that decisions are being made without the proper processes and the citizens are being taken advantage of. This perception needs to change.

In the future, I would highly recommend that you reach out to local business owners in advance when adding items to agenda that could potentially impact their business. Waiting until the 11th hour to be notified of this discussion is very concerning to me.

I will be on the call tonight and I request that you ask for input from ALL business owners and ALL local residents prior to making any changes.

Again, I see both sides of this topic... At the end of the day, I believe that all voices should be heard and decisions should be equitable for all parties involved.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Smith
Owner
The Galley Restaurant

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I am in favor of St. Michaels continuing Live Outside Music on Sundays. I feel music and especially live music is a part of our little town. Resort towns like ours benefit from Sunday activities such as live music events. It keeps weekenders in town which in turn benefits lodging, shopping, restaurants, our local workers and our local musicians. Please remember many of our musicians are full time musicians. Live weekend events are part of their livelihood. If we consider a weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday and you take away a Sunday that is a third of their weekend pay. These live Sunday music events are enjoyed by many of our locals. We call it Sunday Funday. We get to socially distance outside and hear our friends play music and relax before another Monday is here. I also feel that anyone that has come here and fallen in love with our town and hence bought a home in town knew there were Church Bells, Live Outside Music, Boats and Boaters making noise, local wedding events with bands etc... What will be considered "outside" if on a Sunday Foxy's has their windows open or Carpenter St Saloon has their door open will this be considered a fine? Where do we stop??

Respectfully,

Cheri Bruce-Phipps

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To whom:

It is my understanding that an attempt is being made to ban live music in St Michaels on Sundays. As a Talbot County resident, I strongly oppose this measure. We often invite guests to our home for the weekend make our plans with them to support local musicians in St Michaels, Easton and Tilghman Island. Such a ban would force St Michaels restaurants' revenues to these other towns. Please take this into consideration and decide not to implement his ban.

James Baker
McDaniel, MD

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Thanks, Jaime, for inviting opinions on this matter. It boggles my mind that residents of St. Michaels are worried about noise on Sunday. Live music is who we are, at least those I know in this town. If they want to live in a quiet, boring granny town, move to Chestertown. But for crissake, don't turn this town into a place like that. I could go on, but I'm sure you've heard enough from Ward and the other musicians who are trying to make a living making St. Michaels fun.

Thanks
Doug Adams

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Hi, I live on Mulberry Street and I wanted to support having music Sundays and everyday it's possible. One of the things I love about St Michaels is the vibrant, friendly and happy place it is. From the music on the corner, to the Thursday's in the park behind me (pre COVID) I enjoy people enjoying themselves and the charm of this town. It's never been an issue because it's not going on late at night and I find when folks could gather in the park they didn't leave trash or anything behind other than possibly new friends.

Personally the street cleaner early in the morning is a bigger disturbance and I never really mind that. Please don't stop music and the smiles that come with it....wonder if the folks that complain dislike the church bells too. 🙄

Joan Hennighausen

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I'm not a resident of St. Michaels but love that small Eastern Shore town. One of the best parts is shopping, seeing people outside and of course the music at ALL of the local taverns. That's one thing people love the most, it's the music, especially on Saturday and Sundays. It's neat watching people from all walks of life walking the streets of St. Michaels carrying their gifts they bought at the local shops walking in a pub for a cold beer or two listening to local LIVE music. It's relaxing. I've met a lot of "Out of Towners" this way, not to mention seeing the local gang enjoying the day. I'm afraid if you ban the live music, less people will come to your town to support the Small Business.

DON'T FIX SOMETHING THAT ISN'T BROKEN. Let the music continue.
John Haller

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Doug Adams
Your Email (required)

Subject
Music on Sundays
Your Message

Noise ordinance. Hell. Who wants to turn this town into a granny community. If you want quiet and boring, move to Chestertown.

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Jaime,

I'm writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed strict noise ordinances and live music(indoor and/or outdoor) not being allowed on Sundays.

Our musicians and restaurants have already had a tough year with COVID. This will be another jab towards them. These newly proposed restrictions will affect business and musicians alike whether the business has live music.

People organize their day around these live entertainment events especially within the service industry. They will base their day around where they're going for live entertainment, shopping, food and beverage. It is proven surrounding businesses benefit from these live performances as well.

A prime example of this is when a family chooses to go out. What may have been planned as just a day/night visit to Foxys to listen to music, has now turned into fun at Foxys, some shopping and ice cream at Justine's.

I strongly encourage everyone to think about the consequences of these newly proposed sound ordinances and how much they will affect our town.

Regards,
Samantha

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Jamie, As a resident and business owner for many years in St. Michaels, I find it very disturbing that the Commissioners would even consider banning any sort of music / entertainment on Sunday or any day for that matter.

The restaurant industry is the engine that's helps all business's succeed in this town. We have had a rough past year and don't need any new rules or laws imposed on us that will impede our ability to function in a profitable manner.

Regards,
Arthur Webb
Awful Arthur's Seafood Company
410-463-0531

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Hi Jean,

I understand there will be a discussion regarding music on Sundays coming from businesses and events. Please share with the commissioners that full time residents John Garland and Steven Chesbro have no issues with music coming from events or businesses up to 10pm any day of the week including Sundays.

Thanks
John & Steven
226 Dodson Ave

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Commissioner Windon and the Commissioners of St. Michaels,

I would like to offer my thoughts on the proposed ban on outdoor Sunday music. I'm sure all the standard arguments have already been offered, so I'm not going to restate them. However, I do have some other input.

I live on Locust Street, right in the middle of the area in question. There are times when the music from the harbor is noticeable, but it's not as bad as the Saturday and Sunday night wedding bands at the Maritime Museum, the drag race of souped up glass packed muffler vehicles that happens at 8am, 12pm, and 5pm from the intersection at Carpenter Street and Locust Street to the boatyard - EVERYDAY, the constant construction noise that has become part of everyday life (often extending after the 5pm cutoff per the town ordinance), endless lawn care, a different neighbor everyday, and constant dog barking. Unfortunately, noise is just that, noise.

But to accomplish the goal of a quiet Sunday, wouldn't the ban would also need to extend to the marinas, private boats, rentals and residents? At what point are we just over reaching?

I completely agree the bar/restaurant owners and the musicians need to respect the neighbors and the neighbors need to understand and respect the need to earn a living. We all need to work together to find a fair balance that will satisfy the majority, knowing that not everyone will be happy with the final outcome.

Gracie Derrick
105 Locust Street
Unit 1

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I'm writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed strict noise ordinances and live music(indoor and/or outdoor) not being allowed on Sundays.

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I strongly encourage everyone to think about the consequences of these newly proposed sound ordinances and how much they will affect our town.

Regards,
Mark McGrogan

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Jean,

I understand that there is to be a discussion on the possibility of an ordinance restricting or eliminating outside music on Sundays.

I am against such a restriction.

If a specific source is the source of repeated or numerous complaints, they should be cautioned. Perhaps an ordinance allowing individual restrictions if they receive numerous or repeated complaints on any day or night of the week.

Francis Hopkinson, Jr.
113 W. Chestnut Street
PO Box 163
St. Michaels, MD 21663

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As a resident of Green St, I would like to say that one of my favorite reasons for living in

such a central location, is the flurry of activity that occurs locally. The liveliness of the boating, restaurants and LIVE OUTDOOR MUSIC are absolutely all part of it. Additionally, I feel that it is not the time to take money out of the pockets of musicians and business owners who have struggled to survive this pandemic. I hope to attend the zoom meeting and listen to this discussion.

Marise Galgano
111 Green St

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Dear Commissioner Windon,

Please know that I am opposed to any proposed changes to the noise ordinance that would put a ban on outside live music in St Michaels. I very much enjoy listening to live outside music on Sunday's when the tourists have mostly left. This is especially true during Covid, when it is hard to be inside.

I have tried to think of a time I have heard any extremely loud live music on a Sunday over the past year or two and could not think of one. I would be curious to know how many violations/citations were issued by the town?

Secondly, if something like this were to be considered, the timing could not be worse. Many of the businesses, that have outdoor music, are struggling economically during Covid and I feel this would be another hit to their revenue.

Thank you for your continued service to the town. It is appreciated!

Regards,

Mark Van Fleet
200 E Chew Ave.
St Michaels, MD

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To Whom it may Concern,

Hello my name is Madison Knopp I am writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed noise ordinances and live music not being allowed on Sundays. I live at 116 N. Talbot Street and enjoy spending my weekends in our beautiful town. One of the most inviting aspects of our town is that we offer live music for locals and tourists to enjoy. By enforcing this ordinance you are directly hurting local musicians and restaurants who have already struggled immensely due to COVID-19. I live between Perry Cabin, CBMM, and Foxy's Harbor Grille and I have never found their music to be offensive or too loud, in fact I find it to be inviting and a valuable amenity to our community. People come to St. Michaels specifically because we have live music on the weekends, and that is something that makes our town unique. I strongly

encourage everyone to think about the consequences of these newly proposed ordinances and how they will affect our community.

Sincerely, Madison

•

To Whom it May Concern,

We enjoy listening to live music and feel privileged to live in a community that offers many choices, and makes live music available to us . We hear music at our home from multiple venues and have never found the sound to be disturbing . I enjoy playing an instrument myself and would be very disappointed if I were unable to play and relax in my own home or have friends over for a jam session. We have a noise ordinance in place , if it is respected then there should not be any problems .

Thank you,
Mr.and Mrs. Brad Krantz
Grace Street, St Michaels

•

Dear Commissioner Windon,

Thank you for taking note of our concern.

Inn at Perry Cabin, as St. Michaels largest hospitality operator, is concerned that further restrictions impeding our ability to sustain the business of celebrations and gatherings, could have a unfavorable impact in the towns vibrancy, sustainability and attractiveness as a destination.

As a business we have followed the rules that are currently in place and find them to be appropriate. Not once, in the 4 years that I have been the Managing Director have we received a complaint regarding the noise ordinance.

We would strongly encourage the Commissioners to enforce the current regulations and when issues arise, they be recorded and addressed accordingly by the enforcement authority.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Hoffmann
Managing Director

•

Thank you for the invitation to remark. It is appreciated.

My name is Jonathan Dietrich-you all know me as jd. I live at 104 Locust Street right at the intersection we call "Hell's Crossing."

I count as my neighbor and friend Tad DuPont. And the reason we are and can be friends is where we may agree to disagree. We respect each other. Respect is not a word I would use to describe the social media reaction to the discussion currently happening as it relates to banning live music on Sunday. You all were elected to serve us (residents) and to that end I think you all have done well so far. I wish some residents paid a bit more attention and respect to the commissioners elected and not run to their grudges or biases. Each of you deserves respect.

On the Sunday music ban?! I'm more worried about trash trucks and construction vehicles and all kinds of other crazy stuff that happens every day-as I'm (actually my wife too) are trying to teach in a live studio where noise is a huge issue and concern. Work in a new virtual world isn't easy. But guess what? My wife and I knew what we were getting into 6 years ago when we moved here from DC.

Living in downtown Saint Michaels puts you in a loud fishbowl. And it's great! This is why we are here-you meet new people and you figure it out.

Live music in this-sorry folks-tourist town-is unique. From Kenny to Ward to Hawkins and Baker and 3 Penny Opera and Black Dog Alley-music is part of our life blood.

And so are Sundays-with our live music. Make no mistake-people stay Sundays and they shop Sundays because they know there's going to be a great act Sunday night. And they end up spending more and staying another night. I'm not the business guy in my household- but I think the town making money is a good thing? Otherwise I'm sure locals will stay home or Kent Island picks up our Sunday leftovers.

It is my hope hope to rock out to live music on Sundays-whether it's from a nearby restaurant or from my courtyard in Hell's Crossing. Let the music play...on Sunday.

jd

•

Hello,

I am writing to you to reconsider banning live music on Sundays. My family enjoys going to St. Michaels, Maryland. However, a majority of our visits can only happen on Sundays. We have always enjoyed live, local musicians. They are truly unique individuals much the same way St. Michaels is. It would be a real shame if live music was to be banned on Sundays. With everything that has happened in the past all of us need something positive to happen. I believe that live music and the hospitality industry

go hand in hand.
Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Fearrington

•

Hello. My name is Quinn Parsley, and I am a local musician and educator. I have recently become aware of the council's possible plans to eliminate live music on Sundays within St. Michaels. I have to say that this is utterly disgusting and unfairly targets an industry that has already been devastated by the Covid crisis. It has no rational economic benefits and serves only to hurt local business and local musicians. I don't know who has put forth this plan, but this has absolutely no benefit for anyone. I am sincerely disappointed that I even have to write this message, and it's absolutely ridiculous that this is even being considered.

•

Dear Jamie,

As a lifelong resident of St. Michaels I'm troubled by the possibility of live music being further restricted by our town council. This town and the surrounding area is full of incredibly talented musicians and St. Michaels has always been a very music friendly town. I just want it to be known that I fully disagree with any attempts to limit live music and limiting these musicians and restaurant industry brethren from making money doing what they love.

Thanks,

Stewart Reeser
Eastern Shore Brewing

•

Hello Jamie,

Thanks for taking this email. I strongly appose a change to the current ordinance on Sundays in regards to live music. This impacts me financially and other members of my band (JCT33).

Sunday is the only day I enjoy outside music without the crowds from tourism throughout our town. I will be on the meeting but this may be more efficient if you read my letter. Thanks for all you do!

Kelly Van Fleet
200 E Chew Ave
St. Michaels, MD 21663

•

Good Afternoon Jean:

My husband and I are residents of St. Michaels and as such I wanted to share our feedback regarding prohibiting live music on Sunday's. We are very much opposed to this live music ban for many reasons including but not limited to the following:

1. St Michaels is a tourist town and with that many residents do not go out on Friday and Saturday as the bars and restaurants are crowded with visitors. Sunday is the day that "locals" like to go out as the bars and restaurants are less crowded. Sunday is considered "Locals Day."
2. Since the pandemic, we like many of our local friends and neighbors have chosen to limit our outings to outdoor gatherings only and will continue to do so even once vaccinated. The only way we would be able to hear live music and support our local musicians and businesses would be in an outside setting as many people are still hesitant to be indoors until herd immunity is reached.
3. As this is a tourist focused town, many residents work on the weekend and Sunday is the only day that they can relax and enjoy all that this town has to offer including supporting our local musicians and restaurants.
4. With all due respect, if a homeowner buys a home near a bar or restaurant in a tourist town they cannot expect for the restaurant or bar to refrain from making money or noise. This should have been a consideration prior to them purchasing their home and part of their due diligence. It would be the same as me complaining about the foot, car and bicycle traffic in front of my home.
5. Does this ordinance apply to all the boats in marina slips or in the harbor playing their music or does the ordinance only discriminate against our local businesses and musicians who by the way have not recovered from losses due to the pandemic? Does this ordinance apply to Sunday weddings as well?

This ordinance not only impacts the quality of life of a majority of residents and visitors that do enjoy music on Sunday but also negatively impacts our hospitality industry and local musicians that rely on our community support. We appreciate your consideration of the above reasons why this ban on live music on Sunday's should not be approved or implemented.

Thank you very much,
Chris and Fran Clinton
St Michaels, MD

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Dear Jean,
John Garland forwarded me your note saying the Town Commissioners would be considering some complaints about the 'noise' caused by some businesses having

music on Sundays. I'd like to offer that my spouse, Mark Montoya, and I have no objections to businesses playing music on Sundays, and, that we would appreciate you passing this on to the commissioners.

Thank you,
David

D A V I D B R A L Y

•

Hi Jaime,
I think the live music on Sunday is a good thing.
Thanks,
Ann

•

Dear Jamie,

I'm writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed strict noise ordinances and live music(indoor and/or outdoor) not being allowed on Sundays.

My fiancé has been working at Foxys for 10+ years. We have a 22 month old son. Sundays with live music bring in a lot of money to help support our family, they provide the food on our table and the roof over our head.

I have family that lives on Kent island, they come every Sunday to enjoy our town and listen to live music on the patio, them along with many others.

Last year was one of the most challenging years we have ever had, both financially and mentally. We simply cannot afford to lose anymore of our income.

I strongly encourage you think thing about the consequences of these new ordinances and the effects it will have on our town.

Aubrey

•

To whom it may concern:

I have just learned that a meeting will take place this evening in St. Michaels regarding the possible ban of live music in St. Michaels on Sundays. I am a part time resident of McDaniel, just down the road from St. Michaels, and have spent many wonderful afternoons and evenings enjoying the beauty, ambiance, good food and live music in St. Michaels, along with the many guests we often have staying with us. I am writing to strongly express my view that banning live music is a terrible idea, for many reasons.

The restaurant and bar industry has suffered greatly during the last year due to the pandemic. Musicians who support themselves by playing gigs in restaurants and bars have had an equally devastating year. Now that more people are vaccinated, and now that more people are enjoying restaurants and bars again, the people in the food service and music business are breathing a sigh of relief and perhaps feel that they have made it through and will survive. Banning the musicians would be a death blow to some.

Live music is a draw for many food and bar establishments, and the ban would certainly cause these businesses to lose patrons. Live music usually brings people in the door, and they likely would travel to some other town to have a meal where they can listen to music.

It is difficult to imagine what the objection to live music is. I have never experienced any outrageous, loud, or offensive music in any bar or restaurant in St. Michaels.

Thank you.

Joanne Baker

•

Hi Jaime!

I just heard that there is talk of possibly banning live music on Sundays.

That is very upsetting to hear. I am completely opposed to such a ban. I don't believe the music is too loud or inappropriate and it ends early enough in the evening.

I live near Foxy's and love the live music and would be very disappointed if it were to be banned anywhere in town. It's part of what makes St. Michaels fun and characteristic.

We enjoy supporting the restaurants and local musicians.

And Sundays are when we locals can get together to do so once the tourists have left and it's more enjoyable to be out and socializing.

I hope St. Michaels isn't going to become a sterile and no-fun environment because of people who are intent on ruining it for the rest of us. They are free to live elsewhere if they don't like the fun and flavor of our little town.

Thanks for your consideration.

Laurie Powers

•

After dodging tourists all weekend and they leave the residents get to relax and listen to some live outside Sunday music.

Why would you want to take this away from us?

Regards,

Terry Jones.

Jones2@atlanticcbb.net

•

Hello Jaime,

My husband and I are opposed to banning music in the park on Sundays. We often spend our evenings in the park listening to the music.

Thank you for your consideration,

Miriam and Craig Mahler

•

Good Evening.

I just heard about a proposed ordinance that is being introduced tonight that would ban music on Sundays. Hopefully this is not true, but if it is please, know that we are strongly opposed to the proposal. The wonderful entertainment in St. Michaels is one of the main reasons we moved here. Please, please, please don't stop the music on Sundays. We would never be ready to go back to work on Monday.

Renee' & Mike LeMire

119 Grace Street

•

Jaime,

I'm writing to you today with concerns of the newly proposed strict noise ordinances and live music(indoor and/or outdoor) not being allowed on Sundays.

I have lived and grown up here since the time I was born and I take great pride in what this town is and what it has to offer And the little things that make it unique. Someone who has just moved here cannot possibly see the things that make this town unique as they have only had a short amount of time to experience And appreciate it. I'm here to tell you that this is the biggest mistake the town will ever make if it wishes to keep people coming and to keep it a highly sought after destination spot and to keep the town thriving.

I find that this issue even being proposed is highly unsettling, frustrating, upsetting and just a flat out, low blow to the people that live in this town and have lived here, give their heart and soul and work hard to make a living playing music and providing entertainment to The hundreds of thousands of people that have enjoyed it over the years including the people that are complaining about it. The people asking for this new

noise ordinance or people that have complained about it have in my opinion no right to dictate this matter, as their livelihood does not depend on it and never will.

Our musicians and restaurants have already had a tough year with COVID. This will be yet another jab towards them. These newly proposed restrictions will affect business and musicians alike whether the business has live music or not, and it's just not fair to take that away from them.

People organize their day around these live entertainment events especially within the service industry. They will base their day around where they're going for live entertainment, shopping, food and beverage. It is proven that surrounding businesses benefit from these live performances as well.

A prime example of this is when a family chooses to go out. What may have been planned as just a day/night visit to Foxys or other restaurant to listen to music, has now turned into fun day/night out at Foxys or a unique experience they had not planned on but will remember for a lifetime or some shopping and ice cream at Justine's, which trickles down and brings even more business to others in the community.

I strongly encourage everyone to think about the consequences of these newly proposed sound ordinances and how much they will affect our town not just now but for years to come. It just will simply not be the same. Thank you for your taking the time in reading this and I hope you take the time to really think this through and how many lives you will impact only to please a few who have complained.

Regards,
Stacy Helgason

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To whom it may concern. Sorry for the late last minute email even as I write this I am on vacation but that's how important this is I will take time away from my vacation to send this email. As someone who has worked in bars during Sunday music and played in bars with Sunday music I wanted to take a second and oppose the new decibel issue on Sunday music. Many might not know but sometimes the money made on A Sunday music allows the key to turn and the business to open on Monday. Much of the money that keeps this town alive in Jan and Feb come from barrenders and servers that make money of that Sunday music. This town was built on the backs of men who worked hard, played hard, and gave back to their community how many times do we have to change what they did to make a town for other people. How many empty store fronts on main street do we have to see that not all change is for the good.

Warmest regards
Clay Swartz

.

Jaime --

Just got word from a friend that town commissioners are considering a ban on live music on Sundays, to be taken up at tonight's meeting. This is the first I'm hearing of it, and he said you were collecting comments in favor of continuing to allow music.

So here's my 2 cents: I strongly support keeping the tunes going -- more important now than ever as we begin to emerge after a year of enforced solitude.

Hope this helps, and let me know if there's anything else I can do to support this effort.
Thanks.

Frank
Frank Carollo

•

Prohibiting live music on Sundays, apparently a wish of new transplants - likely weekenders and vacationers - would be an infringement on long time residents and the food service/pub/ entertainment industry.

Please do not restrict live music on Sunday.
Dennis Fria