

From: Kathy Constantinides [<mailto:kaconstant@comcast.net>]

Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 2:50 PM

To: Postema, Stephen; Larcom, Kristen; Planning

Cc: Stephen Ranzini; Lisa Ranzini; Dallas Dort; Sharon Peterson; Patricia Garcia; Mike & Rita Shirilla; Carolyn & Derek Kerr; Rolando Calip; Seema Calip; Peggy Arden; Bruce Arden; Frank Newman; Andrea Fischer-Newman; Michael Potter; Joe & Beth Fitzsimmons

Subject: City of Ann Arbor noise ordinance

TO: Ann Arbor City Attorneys Stephen K. Postema and Kristen D. Larcom; and
Ann Arbor City Planning Commission members:
Eleanore Adenekan; Bonnie Bona; Sabra Briere, City Council Rep.; Ken Clein,
Secretary; Diane Giannola; Paras Parekh; Jeremy Peters; Kirk Westphal,
Chair; Wendy Woods, Vice Chair

We thank our One North Main neighbors who attended and spoke before the Planning Commission regarding the proposed hotel adjacent to One North Main. We appreciated Stephen Ranzini's remarks about potential noise pollution from rooftop mechanicals and First Martin's response as reported in MLive the day after the hearing:

Darren McKinnon, another vice president for First Martin, noted the firm hired an acoustical consultant as part of the design team to work on limiting noise. "There will be screening that's not just for visual, but also for sound screening," he said. "We are making every effort we can as part of the design to limit the impact of the additional noise."

Ordinary ambient sounds such as traffic, emergency vehicle sirens, and occasional festivals with loudly amplified music are normal to downtown living. However, the City's noise ordinance is outdated and too narrowly defined. Decibel levels alone are inadequate to determine violations; the character of sound must also be considered.

Beginning in 2000, when we moved here, and continuing to the present, we hear a high-pitched, continuous whine from air conditioning units on the rooftop of what was formerly National City Bank (now PNC Bank). This sound prevents us from opening windows and using our balcony as much as we would like.

From 2001 to 2007 we made repeated good-faith contacts to City departments, presented commentary in Council meeting with copies of noise ordinances of other cities (more advanced than Ann Arbor's), and had visits by City officials. The City continually dropped the ball and ultimately offered no recourse.

We hope the Planning Commission will take these concerns under serious consideration as high-density development continues. This should include immediate review and improvement of the City's noise ordinance. The use of an acoustical consultant should be required for each new building proposal. And the ordinance should have retroactive effect for existing noise disturbances.

Angelos and Kathy Constantinides
101 N. Main
Apt. 1002
Ann Arbor, MI