

From: Carlos Palomares <carlosonline@me.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 9:41 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>

Subject: Ann Arbor Home Occupation Regulations (recording studio /electronically amplified sound

Hello

I am a resident of the 5th ward. It is my understanding there is a proposal being considered that would limit the ability to have a recording studio in our homes. I don't really understand the whole issue and what is really being considered. But I read this blog post and it made a lot of sense to me:

<http://www.fieldses.org/blog/?q=node%2F407&fbclid=IwAR1ztNOSzIJJXdyQn8DHVdHSUn8f5BizlPtIkige-sqqv2zVIViXdfmMaBs>

I understand the need to make sure that we are all respecting our neighbors and not creating a noise/traffic issue. But I encourage you to be careful about how this is worded and consider how much is already covered by the current regulations.

You may not realize how many people have some kind of home recording studio. And you may be picturing a big studio with lots of clients and noise making bands. The reality is any recording studio that is going to be that professional would need to have noise abatement in place anyways because you won't get a quality recording otherwise. The neighbors wouldn't be able to hear anything because the recording would pick up outside sounds too.

Most studio are small one person operations. You wouldn't know my studio existed unless we were talking to each other and it came up in conversation. Even if you entered and toured most of my house.

The recording studios that people outside of the industry imagine are few and far between these days. The technology needed to record music is probably included in the computer you are reading this from. Even phones and iPads are being used now. To give you an idea the recent grammy winning record by Bilie Elish (ask your kids if you don't know). Was all recorded at a home on a Mac. If you have the talent to write good music and good ears for production you can do a lot with very little.

Now I don't know anything about the home mortuary business or many of the other industries listed, so I wouldn't assume to know what the best course of action for the city is. But I am concerned that you don't know enough about how a home studio operates and could be operating under some false assumptions. I am sending a picture of my home studio, that is probably more representative of average than less. I don't really operate as a home business anymore.

I do know of a larger home recording studio in town. That I venture to guess most of their neighbors have no idea exists. It is hidden and quiet and there aren't a lot of people coming in and out. These are the kind of small business we don't want to be hurting especially in the current economy. In addition, most professional musicians are not making a living right now because COVID has shut down live performance opportunities so recording music is all they have.

Thank you
Concerned Citizen.

A home studio:



From: Dan Pritts <danno@dogcheese.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: Thanks for reconsidering

Thanks for taking the time to listen to all of us this evening.

I mentioned on the phone that my dad was a home shop machinist. As it turns out, my mom served on our local planning commission. I know you are all working hard with little appreciation - so let me take this opportunity to say thanks for all of it.

regards

Dan Pritts
2901 Baylis

From: Edward Vielmetti <edward.vielmetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>
Subject: "recording studio" restrictions on 2021-04-20 agenda

I am writing to register my opposition to proposed restrictions on "recording studios" (Section 5.16.6.H of Chapter 55 Unified Development Code).

Due to the nature of my work, and the restrictions currently in place due to the pandemic, I keep a recording studio in my attic to enable me to communicate with people all over the world. These recordings are done at normal ambient volumes and are not audible outside of the building.

It would be better to strike this provision of the proposed ordinance entirely, and rely solely on the city's existing noise ordinances to control any potential nuisance.

Lots of people are working at home now! Now is not the time to make it harder for them!

thanks

Ed

Edward Vielmetti, 1210 Brooklyn Ave, Ann Arbor MI 48104

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Gale, Mia

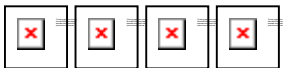
From: Josh Woodward <joshwoodward@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Amendments to Modify Home Occupation Regulations

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I want to strongly urge you to reconsider these amendments, especially the recording studio prohibition. Not only does this not solve any problems not already covered by existing noise ordinances, this is a gut punch to a group already struggling to exist in Ann Arbor, especially in the age of COVID. The arts make our city richer, and we should be encouraging creativity, not suppressing it. Thank you!

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Josh Woodward - <http://JoshWoodward.com/>



Gale, Mia

From: Josh Woodward <joshwoodward@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Re: Amendments to Modify Home Occupation Regulations

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

A follow-up to my previous email - CM Song mentioned that some examples would be helpful.

First off, the definition of "recording studio" is entirely too broad, as an off-the-shelf Macbook is preloaded as a fully-functional recording studio. The vast majority of work done in modern music recording studios is extremely quiet: parts are often recorded one-at-a-time, guitar amp emulators have done away with the need for loud guitar amps, and drum kits have become increasingly rare as electronic music has become more popular. Even a full band in a properly insulated studio is going to be quieter (and less annoying) than a lawn mower to neighbors.

Recording studios are also very diverse. I know of podcasters who do their production from a home recording studio. I have friends who teach violin, and help their students record audition tapes for school orchestras. Not in Ann Arbor, but I know people who do voiceover work for video projects from home studios.

I personally am a full-time musician with a home recording studio. I rarely record anyone but myself, and almost never make any sounds you'd hear from outside. I work during reasonable hours and have never had a neighbor complain.

The concern of excess traffic also seems unnecessary. I'm unaware of any home recording studios in the city limits that service more than a trickle of clients, and even then, rarely full bands - the serious studios are out of town or in non-residentially-zoned spaces.

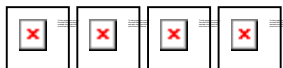
Please let the existing noise control code do its job - thanks!

On Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 1:16 PM Josh Woodward <joshwoodward@gmail.com> wrote:

I want to strongly urge you to reconsider these amendments, especially the recording studio prohibition. Not only does this not solve any problems not already covered by existing noise ordinances, this is a gut punch to a group already struggling to exist in Ann Arbor, especially in the age of COVID. The arts make our city richer, and we should be encouraging creativity, not suppressing it. Thank you!

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Josh Woodward - <http://JoshWoodward.com/>



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