

## Alex Medina

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**From:** Betty s <ejstepan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:09 PM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** Fwd: Noise element standards & noise district map March 2nd meeting

-EXTERNAL-

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Betty s <ejstepan@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Mar 2, 2023 at 11:57 AM  
**Subject:** Noise element standards & noise district map March 2nd meeting  
**To:** Jim Goodin <jimgoodin@aol.com>, Moustafa, Margaret <mmousta@exchange.calstatela.edu>, <planningcomissioners@longbeach.gov>

Simply put to one degree or another these events batter me or come to a type of torture as my patio door vibrates and by the time the last big blast of noise and even fireworks come, I, a very calm person, have resorted to calling many city officials who never seem to take any action of consequence. In CA I believe it is illegal to maliciously disturb another person; we stand disturbed.

To paraphrase a recent headline in the LB Post,

(Residents Rally for respect as negotiations with city agents and agencies drag on.)

For years now, residents along the ocean blvd "acoustical area" have been volleying with the city of LB agents and agencies. This volley concerns excessively amplified sounds from outdoor music festivals.

Today residents are telling you "it is too much; I am telling you it is too much. The consequences are profound; mitigation must happen (not augmentation) or the balance will be tipped beyond redemption for LBs goal stated several years ago in the Special Events Noise analysis.

Residents are telling you this City issue can no longer be handled with platitudes and avoidance tactics (ie special events exemption to the law.)

I challenge you, dear and respected commissioners to join with with the residents to live out the vision of a better Long Beach motivated by reason and laws not chaos created by outside interests. Ask the basic question, is the entertainment brought by this event really enriching and enhancing our beautiful city?

Thank you for your sincere efforts, I look forward to a reasonable solution.

## Alex Medina

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**From:** Linda Scholl <lscholl2011@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 12:04 PM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Cc:** CityClerk; Linda Scholl  
**Subject:** Item 4. 23-018PL [Planning Commission Meeting (3-2-2023)]

-EXTERNAL-

City Clerk: please add this to the agenda document package for this topic.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of 115 people who wrote to you in December regarding the draft Noise Element. It must be sent back to staff because there are no objective methodologies, measurements or reference points that will guide city employees regarding special events. There must be objectives, measures and guidelines commensurate with California Health and Safety Regulations about how to find appropriate space to locate, manage, and control specially permitted amplified events so they are successful - yet without causing the nuisance of over amplified noise that prevents residents from living in our homes peacefully.

As an example of the harmful nuisance we endured just two weeks ago: the Cali Vibes concert was held two weeks ago in the parking lot of the convention center behind our homes. For 39 hours over 3 days, we were assaulted with noise levels ranging from the levels equal to freeway traffic to vacuums to sirens — in our homes. The incessant throbbing and booming hurt our ears, our bones, vibrated our doors and windows. We couldn't hear the tv, talk, concentrate or rest. It was hazardous and maddening that a city management would allow us to be terrorized in our own homes.

While there are some people who like the loud noise, we all know that some people like to smoke cigarettes too. Yet we all know not to blow unwanted smoke into others' homes! And in most civilized societies, if your neighbor is playing loud music that is affecting you in your home, it will not be tolerated.

Per the California Office of Planning and Research, the Noise Element must address these noise problems specific to the community—with the goals being the reduction of complaint frequency and the provision of a healthful environment for all residents of the community. (\*See OPR General Plan Noise Element Guidelines, document, page 373.)

If there is a will, there is a solution. We ask for you to take action that addresses our concerns and allows the city to hold events without disturbing the neighborhood.

What amount of signatures will be enough for you to take this action?

Sincerely,

Linda Scholl, DCH  
Long Beach downtown resident

**Alex Medina**

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**From:** tuoc pham <tuockimpham@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:55 AM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** A concerned resident over the noise problem caused by Long Beach City sponsored public events and venues.

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Madam, Sir of the Planning Commission of the City of Long Beach,

My name is Tuoc Pham, and I am a 67 years old and current resident/owner of a condo located at 850 E Ocean Blvd, Unit 506.

I am writing this letter, on behalf for my wife, Minh Chau Pham, to voice our concern with the noise problem that we experience for the past 14 months that we have been owner of said condo whenever there were concerts and venues that were going on at the corner of Ocean Blvd and Shoreline in Long Beach.

We understand the financial needs of the City of Long Beach to sponsor such venues to bring in income to the City. However, in doing so, residents who reside at or around the corner of Ocean Blvd and Shoreline have to suffer the overly loud noises that are produced by such venues.

We were hoping that, in your power, you could enforce strict guidelines to limit the noise levels such that the health of citizens in said area are not impacted.

We thank you for the time and sacrifices you made to help make this community a better place to live.

With gratitude and respect, we remain yours,

Sincerely,

Tuoc Pham  
for Minh Chau Pham (spouse)  
Tel. (949) 702-0156

## Alex Medina

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**From:** Teri Tan <drteritan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** Music concerts in LB

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to express ourselves.

I, and many others living in the shoreline area of Long Beach, who actually live facing the beach and directly above the sound of the music and the much greater sound of the Grand Prix, actually deal with it very well. In fact, we appreciate the fact that we are living in an international city and have the chance to be a part of the events here, even if it is from our balconies.

I find it insulting that the sound of the music festivals has been singled out and the much more intrusive sound of the Grand Prix is highly accepted and lauded. I love them both and if I need an hour or two of quiet, I run my errands or meet friends to socialize at a restaurant. I can also close my balcony doors and put my own music on. All events end at a reasonable 10pm promptly. I also find it insulting that it appears people who no longer live in Long Beach, come to protest at meetings.

The President of the Grand Prix seems to have a long standing deep friendship and camaraderie with those who create "group think" against the music festivals. The Grand Prix and its preamble create an infinite louder sound, it really starts earlier and pervades a larger geographic area, and yet, this is "covered" up at meetings by the excuse of those people who oppose music festival noise, saying that "the Grand Prix has been here before us, since 1975". Then they proceed to gloat over it.

Although I certainly empathize with those who do not tolerate high sound (I did not say "noise"), perhaps we can encourage some tolerance of those days and come up with a list of alternate activities. I am not intending to cause upset with my neighbors. On the contrary, I want you to know that you will only hear from the opposers at your meeting this evening, not those who tolerate some fun activities on our shoreline.

I own two places, and both are exposed to direct sounds. My daughter lives closer to the Pike, and live by Shoreline Drive. My daughter is a composer and "noise" is definitely a barrier to her writing. However, we deal with it and move on. We love and appreciate our city and its events!

Thank you and sorry for the length of this letter.

Sincerely,

Teri

**Dr. Teri Tan, PhD, MBA**  
**Management Consultant,**

**Medical Missions Logistics Specialist**

**Tel: 562-685-5057**

## Alex Medina

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**From:** Moustafa, Margaret <mmousta@exchange.calstatela.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:10 AM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** The draft Noise Element on the March 2 agenda

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Do you recognize this building?



It is the historic International Towers at 700 East Ocean Blvd. It was built in 1966, eleven years before the municipal code that allows the city to exempt entertainment from the noise ordinances was enacted, LBMC 8.80.280. It is one of seven high-rise, high-density residential buildings facing the waterfront.

Behind the International Towers in this picture is the historic Villa Riviera with its iconic green roof at 800 East Ocean Blvd. It was built in 1929, 48 years before LBMC 8.80.280 was enacted. Next to the Villa Riviera is the Pacific Condominium with its iconic orange roof at 850 East Ocean.

In the lower left-hand corner of this picture next to the International Towers is Long Beach Towers at 600 East Ocean Blvd. It was built in 1969, nine years before LBMC 8.80.280 was enacted. Not shown in the picture, on the other side of Long Beach Towers are three more high-rise, high-density residential buildings: Harbor Towers at 525 East Seaside Way and the two Aqua Condominiums at 388 and 488 East Ocean Blvd.

In the lower right-hand corner of the picture is the edge of the Convention Center Parking Lot. Not shown in the picture are the Marina Green and Rainbow Lagoon, adjacent to the Convention Center Parking Lot. In the picture, the large sandy area between the ocean and Villa Riviera and the Pacific Condominium is Alamitos Beach. These areas are used as venues for large city-permitted music festivals. Altogether these waterfront venues constitute **one acoustical area**.

As you know, people living in these high-rise, high-density buildings and beyond in units facing the ocean are frequently exposed to prolonged, excessive noise from city-permitted music festivals. People living in units above trees and objects that mitigate sound are often exposed for long periods of time to sounds five, six, seven and eight times the noise limit for their area. People living in International Towers said the building was vibrating during the last Cali Vibes concert.

As you also know, the Center for Disease Control and OSHA warn that excessive noise effects the cardiovascular, nervous, and digestive systems. Long Beach's own draft Noise Element states that prolonged exposure to noise in excess of 75 decibels affects blood pressure and functions of the heart and the nervous system.

As you also know, people whose homes face the waterfront on East Ocean Blvd have repeatedly asked for protection in their homes from excessive noise from city-permitted festivals. Yet, because of LBMC 8.80.280, the police and health department can't protect people in their homes from city-permitted excessive entertainment noise.

As I testified at your December 1 meeting, some music festivals that have been bad neighbors one year have been good neighbors another year. This shows that it is possible to have both waterfront music festivals AND a healthy home noise environment for people whose homes face the waterfront.

However, under current policy, there is nothing to guarantee that any given concert will be a good neighbor. And once a concert starts and is a bad neighbor there is no functioning mechanism to protect people in their homes when they let the city know the noise is unbearable.

Enforceable standards in the Noise Element will guarantee that people will be protected in their homes from unhealthy, city-permitted excessive noise from music festivals.

Given all of this, **why wouldn't you want to have enforceable standards in the Noise Element to protect people in their homes from excessive noise from city-permitted entertainment?**

Thank you in advance for not accepting the draft Noise Element until it has enforceable standards in it to protect people in their homes from excessive noise from city-permitted music festivals.

Sincerely,

Margaret Moustafa

## Alex Medina

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**From:** Kathy Kelton <kathy.kelton@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** PlanningCommissioners  
**Subject:** March 2 Agenda Item: The Draft Noise Element

**-EXTERNAL-**

City Planning Commissioners,

My name is Kathy Kelton. I am retired. I was a senior vice president for one of the largest financial institutions and was responsible for drafting policies I served on national policy boards in my field. I am a board member for Safe Acoustics For Everyone, a non profit dedicated to promoting sound safety. I believe the draft noise element provides minimal protection for residents and maximum flexibility for the city to avoid addressing health safety standards related to unsafe sound.

City officials are under immense pressure to increase city revenue and loud events are great sources of revenue. We need a policy that provides the city the flexibility it needs to hold events and generate revenue. We also need a policy that protects attendees of these events and its citizens. The draft noise element leaves the door wide open for subjective calls regarding health and safety related to unsafe sound. It offers no guidance for when, why or how often decibel levels established by the State of California Health Department should or should not be followed. There are no requirements for the city to even consider these standards and the health risks presented. It allows the city to exceed these standards whenever it wants without any rationale or restraint by issuing permits for special events.

In 2015, the World Health Organization estimated that 1.1 billion young adults worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to outdoor concerts that exceed recommended safety measures for sound. That is 14% of the world population. According to WHO this represents significant socio economic risks. The noise element should, but does not address these concerns.

There are other health risks besides hearing loss when people are exposed unsafe sound. Residents have complained about cardiovascular issues, chest pains, headaches and vibrations that affect their entire body. The symptoms described by these residents are consistent with the health risks described by international and state health organizations for deep bass vibrations and extremely loud sound produced at a source of over 100 decibels. These are the vibrations that pulse through the building walls of high rises adjacent to the stages and vibrate through the human body. The noise element should but does not address these concerns.

The extremely low and high vibrations are important because these sound frequencies are often missed by A weighted sound level meters. When decibels exceed 100, C weighted



measurements should be included to ensure a more accurate picture is presented. The city sanctioned sound study in April 2018 did not address extremely loud and low frequency vibrations that can be missed by its dBA measurements. The study also did not address extremely low frequencies that penetrate barriers and travel further than frequencies measured by A weighted decibel measurements. C weighted measurements were not included.

Long Beach has an opportunity to prevent socio economic risks identified by WHO and the State of California that are caused by loud outdoor events with amplified sound. There are no objective methodologies or independent reference points to guide city employees in charge of managing these health risks related to sound at specially permitted events.

SAFE recommends that government health agency sound decibel charts be included as reference points to serve as guidance in the Noise Element. SAFE also recommends that the health concerns related to exceeding these standards be addressed in the Noise Element. That is the only way residents and the public attending parks and beaches near these events can truly be protected.

Respectfully,

Katherine Kelton  
Secretary, Safe Acoustics For Everyone (SAFE)  
Sent from Surface