



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
NOISE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NCAC)  
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 – 1:00 P.M.

**July 2021 – June 2022**

**Attendance**

Eugenia “Genia” Ellis, Chair	P	2	0
Jacquelyn Scott, Vice-Chair	P	2	0
Ralph Stone	P	2	0
Rocco Ferrara	P	2	0
Steven Hudson [arrived 1:04]	P	1	1
Chad McCoury	P	2	0
Dev Motwani	P	2	0
Miquel Pilgram	A	1	1
Tim Petrillo	P	2	0
Renee Quinn	P	2	0

**Call to Order & Determination of Quorum** Chair

Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

**Staff**

Greg Chavarria, Assistant City Manager and Liaison  
Porshia Williams, Assistant Director, Development Services Department  
Stephanie Bass, Code Compliance Supervisor  
Sarah Spurlock, Nighttime Economy Manager  
Donna Varisco, Executive Assistant to the City Manager  
Amber Cabrera, Senior Management Fellow

**Others**

Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney  
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Approval of the January 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve the January 25, 2022, meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously (8-0).

**New Business**

Discussion

- Communication to the City Commission Discussion
- Define Committee Goals

Chair Ellis confirmed the request to hire a consultant was sent to the City Commission. She noted it was met with some debate, but it passed and is moving forward.

Mr. Chavarria reviewed the next steps which include a formal solicitation and determining funding for the study. He asked Ms. Williams to provide an update on the process.

Ms. Williams reviewed the slide presentation (attached), which outlined:

- Objectives for Committee interests
- Selection of the consultant
- Expertise of the consultant
- Objectives for the consultant

Mr. Stone noted the special events ordinance needs to be considered because they don't currently have noise considerations in them.

Ms. Williams acknowledged the recommendation.

Mr. Motwani appreciated the comment about the consultant having experience with practical, real improvements but expressed concern about the requirement to have experience in reducing complaints. He stated they should not only consider complaints but consider a wholistic approach. He referenced the 2006 report and the adjustment of decibel measurement in the special entertainment district.

Ms. Scott said she is interested in the concept of agent of change. She said they need to look at long-term options and impacts and she referenced San Francisco and Austin, TX.

Ms. Williams said their Department Director, Anthony Fajardo, has asked Ella Parker and her team to do further research on agent of change.

Ms. Scott stated they have done things in the City that has created the problem, including allowing loud venues to open next to single family homes.

Mr. Stone referenced the 1992 meeting about the special entertainment ordinances. He said the 1992 ordinance outlined outside music must be turned off at midnight. When the ordinance was amended in 2008, it extended the hours until 4:00 A.M.

Chair Ellis clarified that it was inside music and not outside music that was permitted until Midnight and then inside music could continue until 4:00 A.M.

Mr. McCoury asked about the language in the 2006 notes from the consultant that said businesses within the special entertainment district shall be located no closer than five hundred (500) feet from a residential area. He asked if that was current code.

Chair Ellis stated that's what it was when the district was established in 1992 and reaffirmed in 2008.

Mr. Chavarria stated they will be meeting with Procurement this week and the RFP will be issued soon.

Ms. Scott asked if they have the ability to meet with the consultant, once selected.

Attorney Boileau replied the Committee is not part of the procurement process, but they can meet the consultant once selected.

Chair Ellis asked about timeline.

Mr. Chavarria responded that it could be 1-2 months to issue the RFP and then selection and Committee approval will likely take another sixty (60) days.

Mr. Motwani asked Chair Ellis what the Committee should do during the next four (4) months.

Chair Ellis recommended they suspend and wait.

Ms. Scott would like to have the Chief of Police visit and discuss about his experience in Pittsburgh with vehicle noise reduction.

Mr. Chavarria said they can invite him to the next meeting to give some perspective from the law enforcement side.

Ms. Scott would like the Committee to have a discussion on agent of change and additional education on this topic. She recommended Ms. Parker, from Development Services, join a future meeting and present.

Ms. Williams noted agent of change would be located under Chapter 47 of the Unified Land Development Code and not Chapter 17.

Ms. Scott stated she brought up the topic at the Planning and Zoning Board meeting and they didn't quite get it. She said Planning and Zoning should be discussing the topic as well.

Chair Ellis said they need to complete the definition of Committee goals. One goal is to issue the RFP.

Mr. Hudson said the improving of enforcement side is an objective.

Ms. Scott offered another objective is enabling staff to properly do their job, including increasing staff to cover the City.

Ms. Williams stated they are currently working on the budget and have requested additional positions. They asked for four (4) total positions to extend coverage.

Discussion ensued about staff coverage throughout the City.

Mr. Motwani asked about enforcement - adjusting for ambient noise and whether the tools currently used by staff adjust for that.

Ms. Williams replied no because the ordinance does not currently include language to adjust for ambient noise. It was taken out of the code but believes the current limit may account for ambient noise.

Discussion ensued about nighttime and weekend enforcement.

Ms. Williams said they still provide daytime coverage and use overtime and comp time for nighttime and weekend enforcement. They schedule for every single weekend, but they will increase coverage during high traffic times.

Mr. Petrillo asked what time Code Officers are scheduled until.

Ms. Williams confirmed they are scheduled from 7:00 P.M. until 2:00 A.M.

Ms. Spurlock said the Code Officers working until 2:00 A.M. are working on overtime.

Mr. Chavarria asked if the additional positions get approved, would they begin October 1, 2022.

Ms. Williams replied that recruitment would begin on October 1, 2022.

Mr. McCoury asked if most complaints are user generated or site inspections.

Ms. Williams replied user generated.

Mr. McCoury asked if noise complaints are generally evenly distributed by area.

Ms. Williams responded that in her eight (8) years with the City, it has changed. She has seen complaints shift including construction, trash companies, vehicular traffic, and downtown noise.

Chair Ellis asked if there are additional things to add to the committee goals.

Mr. McCoury would like to see more education awareness and how complaints can be filed.

Ms. Williams said the City website has an area with information and how to file complaints.

Chair Ellis recommended including that information in the next Strategic Communications from the City.

Mr. Chavarria said another approach is to call 954-828-8000 (8000 number), which is 24-hour customer service line and provides a ticket number. He recommended creating a marketing campaign for residents.

Ms. Cabrera stated educating the community could be a goal.

Mr. Hudson suggested educating the businesses as well.

Attorney Boileau recommended the Committee should consider whether to develop a campaign now or when information is changed.

Mr. McCoury stated that it is still beneficial to promote the customer service number now.

Discussion ensued about car shows and vehicular burn outs.

### **Good of the Order**

Mr. McCoury spoke on amplified music around events and permitting.

Chair Ellis noted that is a special event permit and that it is incumbent on the neighborhood association to notify the residents.

### **Public Comments**

Chair Ellis opened the floor for public comments.

William Brown said there needs to be education about what the main purpose of the Committee is. He mentioned loud music from vehicles.

Attorney Boileau noted they are heavily regulated by State law but there are some exceptions for moving vehicles.

Chair Ellis replied now that they have their Committee goals established, they can add them to the board description and share with the public.

Steve Bohmann, a local musician and resident of Bamboo Flats, discussed the nightclub across from his residential area. He measured 68 decibels in his bedroom, which is 250

feet away from the venue. He said the venue doors are not insulated. He confirmed he has reported it.

Mr. Petrillo acknowledged the feedback. He said Flagler Village is going through a similar evolution.

Mr. Bohmann added they mask the high frequency sounds in his residence with the noise machine, but the bass is a disruption. He recommended measurement with accelerometers.

Chair Ellis asked for any additional comments by the Committee.

Mr. Stone said there is value in looking at the definition of nightclub versus accessory outdoor music.

Discussion ensued about making recommendations.

Mr. Chavarria said the goals he noted were additional staff for enforcement, determining appropriate measurements for enforcement, education and awareness, method for filing complaints, educating what the ordinance is, bringing in Police Chief to talk about best practices he has observed from his Pittsburgh experience, and agent of change discussion.

Vice Chair Scott noted they discussed at the previous meeting a review of the citation amounts.

Ms. Cabrera said the Committee cannot make changes to the citation amount since it is set by the State.

Ms. Williams noted the presentation included all the Chapters to review.

Chair Ellis stated the downtown has changed dramatically but the City's job is to education and compliance.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 1:00 P.M.

### **Adjournment**

A **motion** was made by Mr. Hudson, seconded by Ms. Quinn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]

February 22, 2022 NCAC Meeting  
Provided by Porshia Williams

# OBJECTIVES FOR THE NOISE CONSULTANT

February 22, 2022



How ambient noise is measured.



Residential development abutting commercial areas.



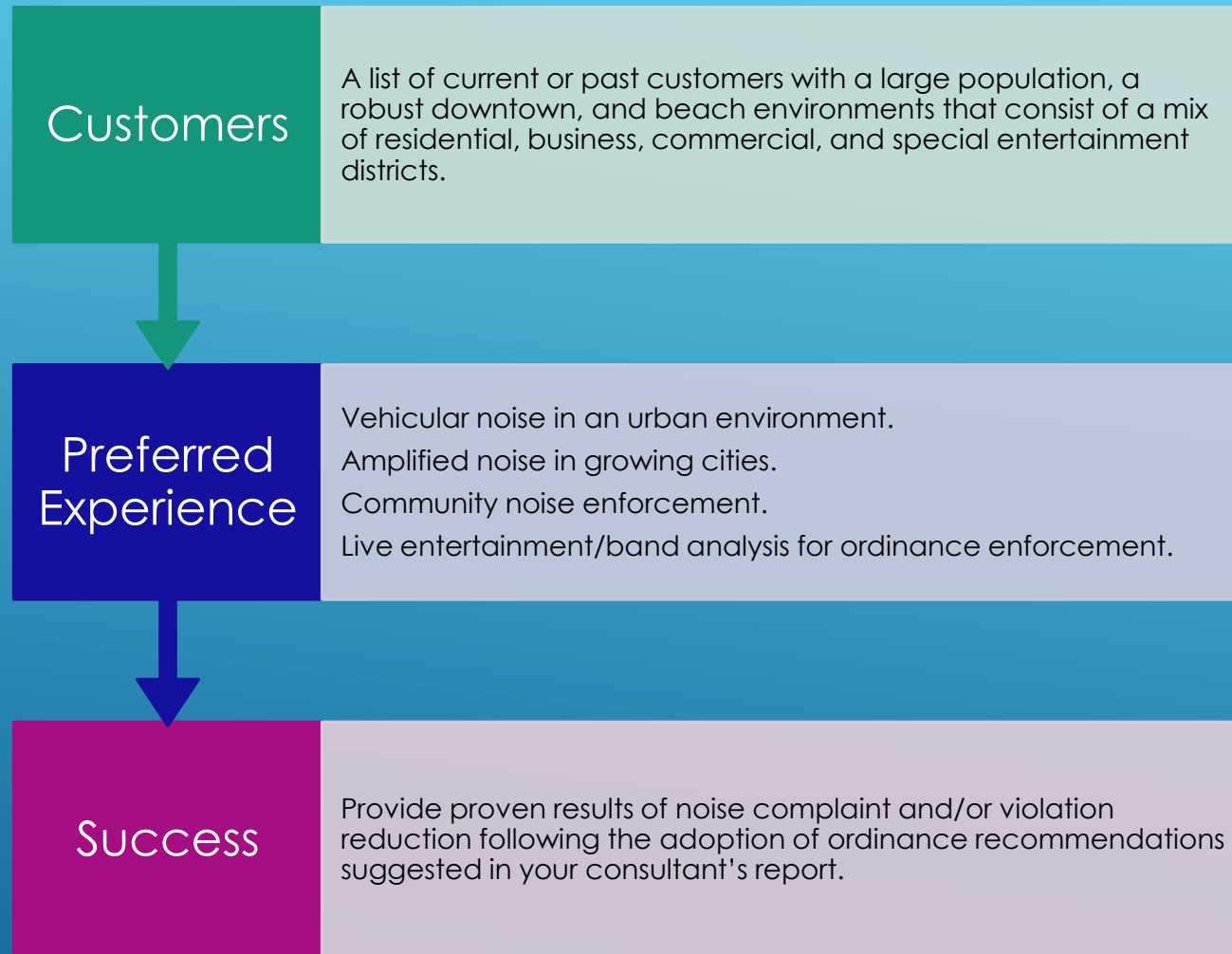
Creating maximum dBC frequency to measure and reduce the impact of bass in amplified sound.



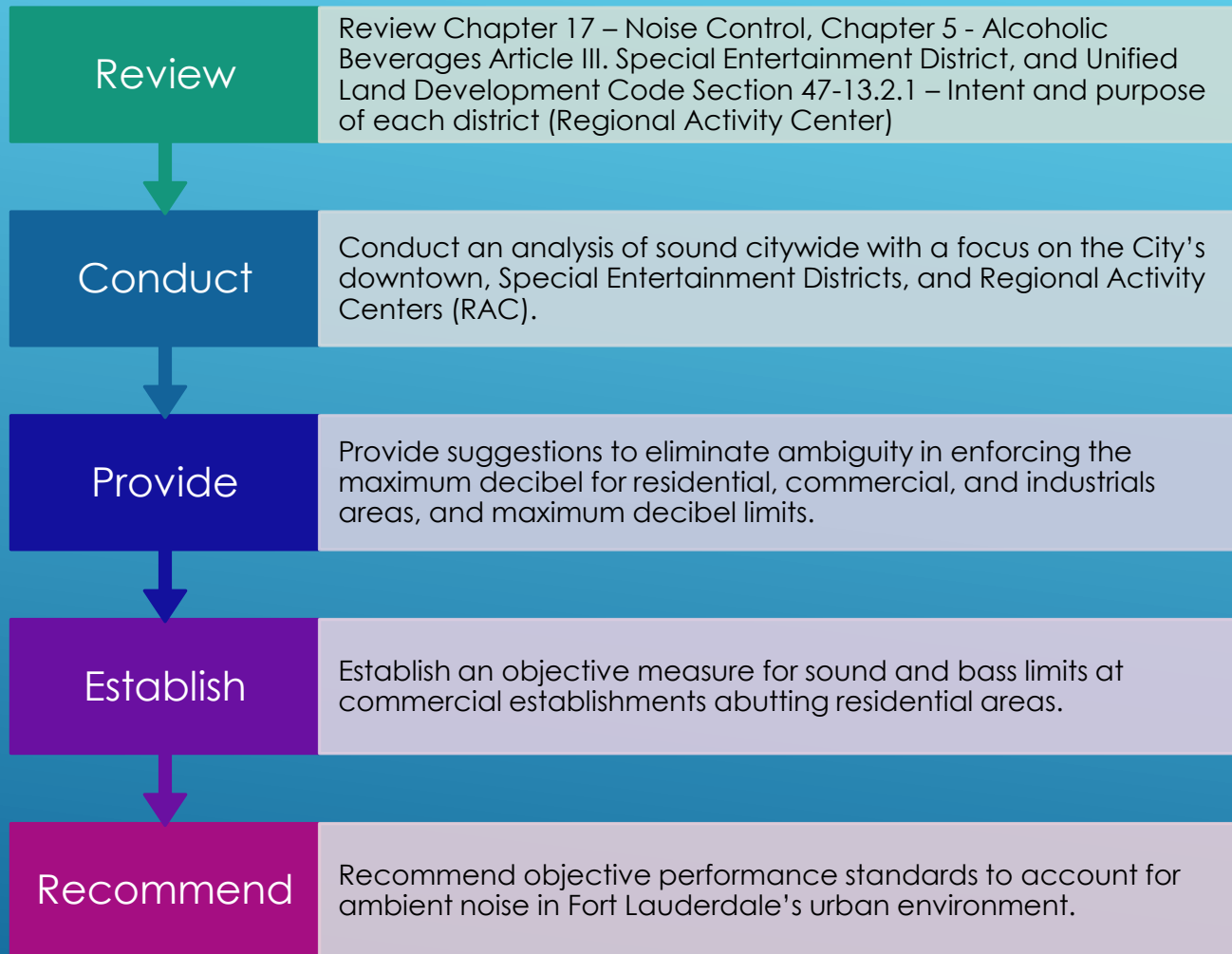
Selection of a consultant with expertise in modern, large city, downtown, and beach environments, that consist of a mix of residential, business, commercial, and special entertainment districts.

# NOISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S INTERESTS

# SPECIALTIES FOR THE CONSULTANT



# OBJECTIVES FOR NOISE CONSULTANT



## Paris inaugurates its first noise radar in bid to quieten its streets

By [Geert De Clercq](#)

- Summary
- Second noise radar to be installed on Tuesday
- Radars will measure noise level and identify vehicles
- Paris to start fining noise makers from 2023

PARIS, Feb 14 (Reuters) - Paris inaugurated its first noise radar on Monday as part of a plan to fine loud motorcycles and other vehicles in one of Europe's noisiest cities. i

High on a street lamp post in the 20th district in eastern Paris, the city installed the first noise radar that is able to measure the noise level of moving vehicles and to identify their licence plate.

"Too much noise makes people sick. For our health and quality of life...this first sound radar's aim is to automatically issue fines for vehicles that makes too much noise," Paris deputy mayor David Belliard said in a tweet.

Report ad

In the next few months, the city will test whether the radar can unequivocally identify the licence plates of roaring motorcycles or cars, after which the equipment will have to be officially approved by authorities by end 2022.

No fines will be issued for now, but Paris plans to start fining from early 2023, while the government deploys more noise radars in other French cities and tests out procedures for automating the fines as part of a 2019 mobility law.

Under existing legislation, authorities can already sanction the owners of noisy vehicles, but police need to have the necessary equipment and catch

the driver in the act. The new system will work like a speed radar, with automated fines.

"The problem is that police often have other things to do," said Fanny Mietlicki, head of the Bruitparif agency that has pioneered the noise radar technology.

Other noise radars have already being installed in the Ile-de-France region around Paris and in the cities of Nice and Lyon since late January. On Tuesday, a second noise radar will be installed in western Paris.

Report ad

A Dec. 2021 study by Money.co.uk, based on European Environment Agency data, showed that Paris was one of Europe's noisiest cities, with over 5.5 million people exposed to road traffic noise at 55 decibels or higher, compared to 2.6 million people in London and 1.7 million people in Vienna and Rome.