



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

2nd DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
NOISE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NCAC)
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.

July 2022 – June 2023

		<u>Attendance</u>	
Eugenia “Genia” Ellis, Chair	P	3	2
William Brown, Vice-Chair	P	5	0
Ralph Stone	P	4	1
Rocco Ferrara	P	5	0
Steven Hudson	P	4	1
Chad McCoury [virtual 1:22 P.M.]	P	5	0
Dev Motwani	P	4	1
Miguel Pilgram [virtual]	A	2	3
Tim Petrillo	P	4	1
Renee Quinn	P	4	1

Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:12 P.M.

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Staff

Porshia Williams, Deputy Director, Development Services Department
Stephanie Bass, Code Compliance Supervisor
Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, Nighttime Economy Manager
Katrina Jordan, Code Compliance Manager
Major Victor London, Chief’s Executive Officer, Fort Lauderdale Police Department

Approval of the January 25 2023, Meeting Minutes

A **motion** was made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Petrillo, to approve the January 25, 2023, meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously (9-0).

New Business

- **Approval for Committee Member Miguel Pilgram to Participate Virtually**

A **motion** was made by Vice-Chair Brown, seconded by Mr. Stone, to approve Mr. Pilgram to participate virtually. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously (9-0). Mr. Pilgram never joined the meeting.

- **Walking Tour Review and Findings**

Mr. Gary Siebein, Senior Principal Consultant, stated they visited February 16-19, 2023, and said the team included Professor Martin Gold and his graduate students and three additional staff members from Siebein Associates, Inc. He thanked the Committee and City staff for organizing the site visit. He stated they set up five long-term sound meters at suggested locations and they ran for one week. He confirmed the data has been downloaded and the analysis was beginning. He noted, following the tours, they made sound logs of areas of concern. He reviewed the locations of the tours, including a late-night tour in areas where noise concerns have been occurring. They made sound measurements near several entertainment venues both at grade and heights above grade. He said they would be making a second trip in a few weeks and recommended measuring sound levels at residences in elevated locations. If of interest to the Committee, Mr. Siebein requested assistance in identifying locations.

Mr. Petrillo said they absolutely need to measure at elevated levels.

Ms. Williams said Assistant City Manager Fajardo supports the idea, but she reminded the Committee property owners would need to provide consent.

Mr. Stone said it is a good idea and noted the complaints in his building are about the bass levels.

Mr. Siebein stated their sound level meters record simultaneously the A-weighted, C-weighted, and Z-weighted levels. Additionally, they break the sounds up in individual frequency bands to measure the low, middle, and higher frequency separately.

Mr. Stone offered his balcony as a location for sound measurement.

Chair Ellis stated that Mr. McCoury joined online.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Motwani, seconded by Vice-Chair Brown, to approve Mr. McCoury to participate virtually. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously (10-0).

Mr. Petrillo offered his balcony, as well.

Ms. Williams asked the Committee to reply to an email from Donna Varisco to identify locations or volunteer a personal balcony.

Mr. Siebein said he could imagine a similar number of meters for the second visit. He said they would likely revisit the Riverwalk, Las Olas, or the beach.

Mr. Petrillo suggested identifying the top buildings with issues or complaints and finding a neutral party who would be willing to hear measurements taken from their residence.

Mr. Motwani asked about deciphering noise. Mr. Siebein described sound propagation.

Chair Ellis stated the bass continues to be the issue.

Mr. Stone said the decibel standard was only one of the four standards in the current code.

Chair Ellis asked Mr. Siebein to include bass as part of the assessment.

Mr. Motwani asked if the equipment can accurately decipher cars, horns, trains, etc. the further you get away from the source. Mr. Siebein said the measurements account for that.

Chair Ellis said the noise on the waterway needs to be factored in as well. Mr. Siebein agreed.

Mr. Siebein further clarified that the sound of interest needs to be 5-10 decibels above other sounds or there is no valid measurement for a citation.

Mr. Brown asked about the industry standard for sound measurement for the data they needed for a report. Mr. Siebein said it is not to get an average, rather, an idea of how the sound varies over the course of the day and night in locations for a prescribed time-period.

In response to Mr. Brown's question, Mr. Siebein stated he has not met with City Legal yet. Ms. Williams said she would follow up.

Ms. Spurlock asked Mr. Brown to clarify what they wanted from Legal.

Mr. Brown responded: to make sure Legal is on board with any recommendations that may come from the consultant's report that will need Commission approval, if we recommend changing the code.

Chair Ellis asked about next steps. Mr. Siebein said having an initial conversation with Legal would be helpful. He added another step would be to identify locations and/or individuals to visit on weekend evenings or those willing to have a sound level meter on a balcony for a determined amount of time.

Chair Ellis asked if they looked at the North Beach District. Mr. Siebein said no.

Discussion ensued to clarify next steps.

Mr. Hudson asked about the ideal height. Mr. Siebein said it would vary by location, including on and above grade.

Good of the Order

No additional comments.

Public Comments

No one came forth to speak.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Petrillo, seconded by Ms. Quinn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]