

Ross, Adam

From: Steve Osborn <osborn53@sonic.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Ross, Adam
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] comments on Sonoma Academy Performing Arts Center

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 4, 2020, at 12:00 PM, Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org> wrote:

Hi Steve,

Thank you for your public comment. I will add this to the public record and it will be weighed in the decision making process. In the meantime, I am a bit busy over the next few days so I intend to look into this as soon as I am able and provide you a response to the outcome.

Adam Ross | City Planner

Planning & Economic Development | 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3 | Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel. (707) 543-4705 | aross@srcity.org

From: Steve Osborn 2 <osborn53@sonic.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments on Sonoma Academy Performing Arts Center

Adam,

Thanks for sending me the link to the Sonoma Academy Performing Arts Center plans. My office at 3251 Linwood Avenue is next door to the academy, on the north side of their lot. Unfortunately, I don't see anything in the plans pertaining to soundproofing, which is my main concern. Before 2016, I had multiple problems with excessive noise from Sonoma Academy, mostly because of amplified student rock bands that played outside during the day. This led to a series of phone calls, emails and meetings with the academy, culminating in a February 2016 letter from them saying they had taken measures to keep the noise down. I've attached their letter and another one from the Santa Rosa Police Department clarifying that the city's Amplified Sound Ordinance applies to the school and that the school needs to obtain an amplified sound permit when necessary.

While the noise has been reduced since 2016, there have still been occasional incidents of excessive amplified noise, leading to yet more phone calls and emails from me to the academy pleading to keep the noise down. My concern is that the new auditorium will increase the incidence of excessive amplified noise, so it would be helpful to know which soundproofing measures are being taken to

ensure that amplified noise stays within the auditorium. I would also ask that the academy obtain amplified sound permits for any events in the auditorium that include amplified sound.

In sum, the academy needs to respect their neighbors' right to peace and quiet, as detailed in the Santa Rosa Amplified Sound Ordinance.

Steve

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Steve Osborn
3255 Linwood Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-540-5096
osborn53@sonic.net

[February 2016 letter from Sonoma Academy]

From: Janet Durgin <janet.durgin@sonomaacademy.org>
Subject: Re: This morning
Date: February 24, 2016 at 1:58:03 PM PST
To: Steve Osborn 2 <osborn53@sonic.net>

Dear Steve,

I have been remiss in not sending you the promised letter. As discussed during our meeting, we have instituted a number of protocols to better manage the occasional noise. We have marked the volume level on all the acoustical equipment in our classrooms in order to make clear to students the level which they may not surpass. We have been vigilant about keeping doors closed during rehearsals and students understand the importance of doing so. Our faculty are closely monitoring rehearsals and developing the appropriate expectations and norms. We have also acquired a meter to measure the decibels should the noise of a rehearsal or performance be questionable.

We spoke to the police officer assigned to our neighborhood who said that the city code you referenced is applicable to public spaces, not private...and that we would be considered a private domain. He said that because it's a school, there will inevitably be occasional noise above ambient levels. Perhaps he's wrong and we would certainly want to know so. In any case, we will do our best to be good neighbors and would never take advantage.

We are very aware of your proximity and the impact on your work. We should add to our protocols the courtesy of letting you know well ahead of time (whenever possible) should we have the occasional "cereal break" (which is what was going on this morning) or open mic. These will generally be 15 minute periods and very occasional in nature. We certainly should have done that this morning.

All the best,

Janet

Janet Durgin
Head of School

[February 2016 letter from Santa Rosa Police Department]

From: "Snetsinger, John" <JSnetsinger@srcity.org>
Subject: RE: Letter from Sonoma Academy
Date: February 25, 2016 at 4:15:00 PM PST
To: Steve Osborn 2 <osborn53@sonic.net>

Hi, Steve.

First of all I am very glad to see that you and the administration at Sonoma Academy seem to be working out a respectful compromise to the music issue. It is almost always best when neighbors can communicate honestly and become true good neighbors.

To answer the question about the application of the Amplified Sound ordinance as it applies to private property, yes it absolutely does. The ordinance was enacted to "to reasonably regulate the use of sound-amplifying equipment in order to protect the correlative constitutional rights of the citizens of this community to privacy and freedom from public nuisance of loud and unnecessary noise."

We issue amplified sound permits for events taking place on private property regularly. While most amplified sound permits are requested for and issued for "events," the code does not distinguish an event from something that took place regularly.

I hope this answers your question and again, I'm glad that you and your neighbor school are working things out.

John.

Lieutenant John E. Snetsinger
Santa Rosa Police Department
Field Services Division – Traffic Bureau
Special Events / Tactical Teams / IMT
965 Sonoma Ave Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Office (707) 543-3550
Cell (707) 975-1203

On Jun 3, 2020, at 3:33 PM, Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org> wrote:

Steve,

The plans are now up online for Public view. <https://srcity.org/3309/Sonoma-Academy-Performing-Arts-Building>

Adam Ross | City Planner

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From: Steve Osborn 2 <osborn53@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Can't find Sonoma Academy plans on city website

OK, thanks.

On Jun 2, 2020, at 11:01 AM, Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org> wrote:

Hi Steve,

It should be going up shortly, I will confirm once they have been posted.

Adam Ross | City Planner

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From: Steve Osborn 2 <osborn53@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Ross, Adam <ARoss@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Can't find Sonoma Academy plans on city website

Adam,

Per my phone message, I got the notice of application for the Sonoma Academy Performing Arts Center, but I can't find any plans for the center at srcity.org/developments. The only material I could find on the website is the notice itself. Could you please steer me in the right direction?

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