

Allied Neighborhoods Association

October 24, 2010
City Council and Mayor
City of Santa Barbara

CMRodriguez@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

RE: Plan Santa Barbara and Noise Ordinances

Dear City Council Members:

Allied Neighborhoods Association, in response to concerns that have been brought to us by several neighborhood organizations, is requesting that you include as part of the General Plan Update, both a policy and implementing ordinance prohibiting amplified music after 7 pm for **all** parks in residential areas (except during the week of Fiesta).

We know that from reviewing Drafts of the GPU, noise management relating to parks has not yet been adequately addressed. **Plan Santa Barbara Program EIR Section 12 - Noise** states:

“The City’s CUP process requires consideration of activities, including numbers and sizes of events and hours and a finding that such facilities or events are compatible with the neighborhood. The City’s Noise Ordinance also governs amplified sound and disturbing the peace complaints and permits police to respond to complaints about high noise levels and to close down functions that are disturbing the peace.”

Allied believes that this is not adequate to protect our city’s neighborhoods. While our concern most immediately deals with events at Elings Park, this concern is shared by other neighborhoods as well.

Reliance on the police to respond to noise complaints is ineffective, costly and a poor use of police resources. Neighbors of Elings Park, for example, have found complaining to the police to be ineffective and comes too late to be effective. By the time the police arrive it is generally after-the-fact.

Neighborhood complaints have not led to improvements at future events. The neighborhoods around Elings Park have been subjected to amplified music and sound from the Park until 10 pm on the majority of weekend nights for a number of years. The noise wakes up children and disturbs residents. In addition to evening events, residents are also subjected to amplified sounds from sports, BMX and remote controlled vehicles during the day and evening throughout the year. These noise levels are unacceptable.

Communities on the Central Coast similar to Santa Barbara (San Luis Obispo and Ventura) do not allow any events after 7 pm or sundown. The residents of Santa Barbara deserve the same respect as residents of Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties

The Santa Barbara General Plan, which purports to be “**for maintaining quiet, high quality neighborhoods**” needs an ordinance in which all city parks end amplified music and sound by 7 pm. This ordinance needs to apply to all parks and large open space areas, in residential neighborhoods, whether said location is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Santa Barbara or a private entity .

In addition, Allied requests a policy like that of Ventura County’s that requires that amplified sound to not be heard more than 100 feet from the source.

We also request that all parks within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods that rent outdoor space to the public or other non-governmental organizations be subjected to the CUP process requiring: “consideration of activities, including numbers and sizes of events and hours and a finding that such facilities or events are compatible with the neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,
Cathie McCammon, President
Allied Neighborhoods Association