

Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group
DSB 107 and Teams
March 19, 2025

Check-in

Debrief from the BOCS meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

- DCOAG members appreciated the Board's acceptance of dBC and Octave bands for inclusion in the County Noise Ordinance.
- DCOAG members appreciated the Board recognizing noise as a public health issue.
- Noise budgeting is key, as well as, noise modeling.
- Question – Can the Board grandfather Uses through the Noise Ordinance?
- Kathy Kulick- Disagreed with the response from the consultant as to why the data from Great Oak resident testing was not included.
- DCOAG content and agree with the consultant's presentation
- Kevin – Expressed how the consultants did a good job in describing to the supervisors the impact the data centers being built close to residential communities cause. Data centers are very loud, and this is a public health issue. The idea of having a Noise Budget system was a good turnout for the Supervisors to see how this affects the residents.
 - Discussed the development areas that will be included in the noise budget system that would help to make residential areas more livable.
- DCOAG agreed the involvement of the supervisors during the presentation was a sign of relief and a sign of hope.
- Suggestions giving the applicants the noise budget system upfront.
 - If the noise budget is not in the Noise ordinance, there will be legal issues, and many will not be compliant.
- The country only has the authority to require applicants to address their noise impact. If the noise ordinance is updated, and legislation is added, the applicant will need to do noise modeling. This would benefit applicants because they will be compliant with the noise ordinance.
- The Noise Ordinance would need to be stricter.
- Kathy K- Comparison of the noise that is constant 24/7 that interferes with residential areas vs 24/7 areas that do not bother residents.
- Ray- Noise Budget – Noise profile discusses the possibility of a noise profile of a projected building that each building can be identified as a signature. The signature would play into the noise budget The violation would come when the build does not match the signature of the application. The verification of the building would need to be approved in the beginning.
- Noise budget – This would help with the noise profile at the start of the building of a project.
- Bill W: Noted that the Supervisors have noticed the amount of work that has been done by the DCOAG. The involvement and questions asked by the Board indicate their concerns about getting the problem fixed. This all means we should be more aggressive with the Noise Ordinance.

- The presentation was a good way to catch the supervisor's attention and provided relief to the hard work of DCOAG

Dale Brown Presentation

- Pointed out that our draft Octave band levels are actually almost 2 dB higher than the Intermittent scale.
- Dale asked about enforcement.
 - Leaf blower- intermitted vs Hammer impulsive reading- How would the enforcer know how to measure?
 - LEQ(10 mins) VS. Octave band(10 mins) – this would be in violation.
 - Noise meters would measure all three noise levels.
- Discussed the ordinance text/ definitions
- Discussed the suggestions about lowering the numbers to the residential areas that will remove the false positives. dBA and dBC.
- Clarified what a mixed-use district is – An example would be Potomac Towne Center.
- Suggested using dBC to simplify everything (and not use Octave bands).
- Suggested bringing Les Blomberg- A noise pollution clearing house consultant to do a peer review.
- Wade H- Will follow up on doing extra testing – for hospitals and grocery stores that will define intermittent and continuous.
- Dale- Great Oak resident testing suggested testing from Carlos's house as quiet for his house is below 50 aBA.
- It is suggested to pursue longer durations of noise testing and to incorporate assessments of human perception, as this approach would ensure that residents are not influenced by the noise meter. This would involve conducting a survey to gather perceptions at various times throughout the day.

Wade discussed the project timeline

- DCOAG agreed to set a goal for July 8 BOCS approval of the Noise Ordinance

Check-out

- DCOAG discussed the siting concern- Working collaboratively with planning and the consultants.
 - The importance of having a more collaborative input in siting.
 - Suggested the Director of Planning join the DCOAG meetings to discuss siting.
- Discussed Jake breaking and construction noise.
- Discussed the importance of having a timely response when a noise complaint is received.

Next meeting

- **March 26**

