

8 May 2015

To the Yachats City Council:

I am writing this letter now to allow sufficient time for the City Council to act.

My request concerns the Fourth of July celebration here in Yachats and is based on scientific evidence from an array of governmental and private organizations: The U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute on Deafness, the American Hearing Research Foundation. I am appending excerpts from their publications, but quote here from one of them— the National Institutes of Health:

“ . . . long or repeated exposure to sounds at or above 85 decibels can cause hearing loss. The louder the sound, the shorter the amount of time it takes for NIHL to happen.”

Businesses in downtown Yachats need to reduce the decibel count of their outdoor music on the Fourth of July to accord with the 85 decibel count specified by the National Institutes of Health as requisite to avoid noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL).

Last year's outdoor music from business establishments was louder than ever. Calling these establishments as I did, asking them to turn down the volume was to no avail. If the City of Yachats genuinely wants to preserve the health of its citizens, it needs to address the problem of loud music on the Fourth of July.

Kindly note that living on the hillside above the downtown area and closing all windows does not dampen the incredible blasting of sound. Neither do any kind of earplugs. We are well aware, and the City Council should be aware, that, as the NIH document specifies, “Your distance from the source of the sound and the length of time you are exposed to the sound are also important factors in protecting your hearing. A good rule of thumb is to avoid noises that are too loud, too close, or last too long.”

Unfortunately, there is no way “to avoid noises that are too loud, too close, or last too long” when those noises emanate from sources out of your control.

The City Council needs to act. It needs to contact businesses to let them know of the 85 decibel level requirement and formulate an ordinance if necessary to see that businesses comply.

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