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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:52 PM
To: commissionstreamlining
Cc: Lurie, Daniel (MYR)
Subject: Commissions & Prop E

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Dear Commission Streamlining Committee,

I am writing to ask that you take a serious look at the Entertainment Commission. I mean talk about the fox watching the hen house. I appreciate that the individuals on the Entertainment Commission are interested and care about City nightlife but it's, at best, a conflict of interest to have people who profit off of the industry to have the amount of power and control that they have over the permits, including and especially noise permits. These commissioners have no incentive to listen to neighbors about noise problems.

Case in point involves the Portola Music Festival which in conjunction with the Midway caused my windows to shake from the boom of the bass last year until 4 am and I live 2 miles away on Bernal Hill. My attempts to get the attention of the Commission was an exercise in futility. They didn't care that the music caused problems for the nearby and/or distanced neighbors. They clearly only wanted to protect the Festival and the Midway. That is not right.

I support the idea of nightlife in the City but it needs to be done in a such a way as to take into account the needs of neighbors. I was essentially told that the neighbors who live within 250 feet of the property are the only people who have a place to complain. They didn't care that the music carried across and down the 101/280 corridor. I called the Portola "complaint" line the next morning as the complaint line was not active during the night and was told that the music that night was not coming from the Festival but from the Midway so it was out of their control. The Festival representative, of course, did not mention that this Midway event during the Festival weekend was advertised by the Festival. To say that it wasn't their problem or that they didn't have anything to do with the Midway was a lie as I found out about the connection between the two organizations later.

There needs to be a better and more objective way of advocating for a robust nightlife while also being good neighbors because the people in this Commission have only one group in mind when making decisions that actually affect a lot more people. The Commissioners are too closely connected to and aligned with the nightlife industry.

This commission should have a more balanced group of individuals who have less technical control over things like permits that are supposed to fall within City rules and regulations. Why does it have to be a Commission? Maybe an advisory group is the better way to move forward

I'm already thinking about heading down the peninsula to stay in a hotel to get away from the noise from the upcoming Portola Festival.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Austin Stack