

To whom it may concern:

I live in Lawrence Court, which is only two blocks from Fox River House. I am strongly in favor of giving them the variance again this year and hope you will consider the opinions of me and many of my direct neighbors. We choose to live downtown because we like a vibrant city with nightlife. Fox River House and the outdoor music there is such a unique asset to the city and if the concerts were shut down it would be a big loss to that vitality.

I have never had an issue with noise from any of the concerts there and we spend a lot of time on our patio during the summer. And I have two young kids who go to sleep well before 11pm. Frankly, I find some of the claims from opponents to be pretty far stretched.

Truth be told, I don't attend many shows there anymore, but it is a one-of-a-kind place and these concerts are part of what makes downtown Appleton a more exciting place to live. As a neighbor in support of the variance, I think that taking the concerts away would be a bad precedent.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Chris Dearing
8 Lawrence Court

We are writing in support of the request for variance. About ten years ago, we moved from a quiet, leafy residential neighborhood in Neenah to Lawrence Court, right in downtown Appleton, knowing that we were opting into city life. While we overlooked Jones Park, we also overlooked the ramp into the park from Lawrence Street. We learned immediately that city life includes noise--skateboards, bicycles, strollers, runners, inline skates all thumping and clattering down the ramp at all times of the day; sirens (we also overlooked the police station); and Music! Right there!

Beginning with summertime concerts at Houdini Plaza and on some nights in the park below us, and to our great delight, emanating from all of a block and a half away at Fox River House to our own deck. We have taken nothing but joy in the experience and it would be fine with us to have it continue. We realize that some other neighbors have objected; Fox River House and its owner and guests are our neighbors too. Please count us in on the side of support for this request and we hope very much that a compromise can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

Thank you.

Jim and Diane Ragus
20 Lawrence Court
Appleton, WI 54911

First Name:

Renée

Last Name:

Millard

Address:

500 E Eagle Flats Parkway #312

City:

Appleton

State/Province:

Wisconsin

Zip Code:

54915

Phone Number:

(920) 450-4510

Fax Number:

Not answered

Comments/Questions:

(attempting to get this to the board of health but cannot find an email on the city website to use, hoping this is the right one)

I am writing today in support of Fox River House.

I have heard many emotional pleas regarding this venue. I myself have made one to the board of health. But emotional pleas are just that and I understand people on both sides of this issue.

What I wanted to take time and message about today is the fact that our downtown and our city is growing and changing and moving forward. There are so many exciting new developments and opportunities happening.

Money spent in our downtown stays in our city. Our economic health is an important factor of our attractiveness; to attract new businesses, new residents and keep people here. I love this city and as a working musician I want to stay here. I play at Fox River House 3 to 4 times a summer and that is income for me. I turn around and spend that income with other local central businesses.

I am just a drop in the bucket.

With this in mind I think about the attractiveness of our downtown.

What makes a downtown attractive?

I found the following very interesting:

https://www.rogerbrooksinternational.com/20_Ingredients_Handout.pdf

In particular #6, 11 and 18.

Fox River House is a gem in our community. It is one of my top recommendations when out-of-towners ask me where they should go. To hinder the ability to have entertainment would be detrimental not only to the establishment, the musicians and the attendees but also to the city.

Thank you for your consideration,

Renée Millard

Owner- Millard Music Studio

Trumpet, Trombone, oooooo, whoas, etc.- Tyler & the Streeters

Vocals, trumpet-RedHawks

Musical and Managing Director- Chaminade Women's Chorus

Title TBA-Girls Rock Fox Cities

Music Lover

Appleton Fan

Thank you,
Appleton, WI

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Hello,

I am writing this letter in support of the Fox River House noise variance.

The Fox River House has meant a lot to my wife, Jess and I over the past 9 years. As transplants to Appleton from Allentown, PA, the Fox River House was one of the first places we ventured out and discovered on the 2nd day of their opening. Since then, the patrons and staff have become our Wisconsin family. It has become, in many people's eyes a cornerstone of what this community is about... genuine authenticity with its people.

Patti was one of the pioneers of bringing live original music to the downtown Appleton neighborhood. Since then that art has blossomed into an economic boom. Sure, it can be noisy.. that's music! We've witnessed older folks from across the street, dancing and clapping to the music. We've witnessed so many smiling and happy faces over the years. We have never seen any fisticuffs or shenanigans happen at the Fox River House. Live music is scientifically proven to make humans and animals happier. The live music experience brings people from all walks of life together in such a beautiful way that no other entity can – not even sports. Let's face it, you go see a live Packer game, your chance at happiness is only 50%. Live music provides 100% happiness.

All of us that are in favour of the variance, completely understand the neighbors, (whom are directly affected, not living 12 blocks away) concerns. However, we all live within an urban environment that is consistently evolving. It's part of life! Change happens – some positive, some negative – but it happens and we have to learn to accept it. We all must coexist in this environment, positively. I for one, do not like the train whistle or sirens from emergency vehicles, but, it is something that goes with living in a city. I've lived in an urban setting my entire life, and coming from the east, a more crowded area.

Appleton has been our home for the last 10 years and we can't imagine living anywhere else. A large reason for this is the community. Not granting the variance would eventually dissipate this business as the live outdoor music is such a viable portion of their business and the community that enjoys it. Most nightlife establishments see revenue gains between 9pm and 1am. It would be a shame if the city and any of its institutions were publicly responsible for stopping the music from happening and ultimately

resulting in the loss of business. As a community member and downtown neighborhood resident, we do not want to see yet another vacate property which would decrease our personal property values. We want to be in a vibrant downtown that flourishes with positivity and art and that has strong business value and person property values.

Please read the following elements that make a strong vibrant community that surrounds itself around a creative economy.

> As discussions are currently happening between community members, city and business leaders to reshape Appleton into an arts destination, it is important for all of us in this community, in all of the city's neighborhoods, to recognize the importance that art plays in the vitality of a city. The creative economy is only going to continue to grow in Appleton, especially within the downtown neighborhood where we see more live music experiences being curated.

> A community's overall health can be judged by the vibrancy, breadth, and diversity of the arts and culture scene. When a thriving city or business has made significant investments in the arts, the entire community radiates economic vitality.

> Communities that have a vibrant arts scene, including galleries, museums, public art, live-performance opportunities and venues, and a strong collection of individual artists, draw people to those communities.

> When the arts scene is vibrant, independent restaurants, pubs, breweries, shops, and other locally made businesses pop up, which creates an even bigger draw. These dynamic cultural amenities are a priority for many young people looking for communities in which to plant their roots.

> We all must work together, in a positive manner, as we are all in this together to find solutions that benefit everyone in this downtown neighborhood. One such step in this process could be to conduct research on what other communities that have a vibrant live music scene are doing with decibel level maintenance. It was published in the PC that the current DB level for a business like FRH is 61 db until 10pm when a normal face to face conversation can be between 60-65 db. Think about that for a moment... just hanging outside, enjoying a craft beer and conversing with a

family member, loved one, friend or co-worker can be enough to put the business at risk of scrutiny.

> One other suggestion could be to hold non-profit events for local charities where live music is present and all of the proceeds from the outdoor bar goes to the charity.

As a neighborhood resident, I hope that you grant the variance and allow the art to continue to flourish in the downtown neighborhood and at this downtown business.

Thank you,
Ian Thomson
Director of Operations:
Logistics, Venues and Partnerships
Mile of Music

400 N. Richmond St.
Unit 511
Appleton, WI 54911