



Tue 6/29/2021 10:36 AM

Art Thoms <artthoms@ymail.com>

[EXTERNAL] Draft Taylor lot use permit

To: Rochelle Wheeler

Cc: Andrew Thomas; Brian McGuire

Retention Policy Expunge after 180 days (6 months)

Expires 12/26/2021



## PLANNING BOARD

- MY NAME IS ART THOMS, OWNER OF RAGS LAUNDROMAT 645 CENTRAL AVE, BEEN IN BUSINESS THERE 41 YEARS.

MY BUSINESS IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID 19. MY PARKING LOT, APPROX 20 SPACES, RUNS THROUGH TO TAYLOR AVE BY THE LOT ON TAYLOR AND WEBSTER. MY LOT IS FULL ALOT OF THE TIME.

THE FIRST WEEKEND OF THE EVENTS I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE HAPPENING. MY PARKING LOT WAS OVERRUN WITH CARS FROM THE EVENTS THAT WEEKEND. NO ROOM FOR CUSTOMERS.

I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP THE WEBSTER STREET BUSINESSES BUT AT WHAT EXPENSE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

THIS LOT WAS NEVER DESIGNED FOR THESE TYPES OF EVENTS. WHERE DO THESE PEOPLE PARK THEIR CARS? EVEN AT 200 PEOPLE YOU HAVE APPROXIMATELY 100 CARS (AVERAGE 2 PEOPLE/CAR) AND YOU WANT TO INCREASE IT TO 350 PEOPLE ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAY (175 CARS). WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO PARK? WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER BUSINESSES? AL'S BARBER SHOP, PACIFIC PINBALL MUSEUM, THE LIQUOR STORE & SUSI RESTAURANT WHERE REGULAR CUSTOMERS CAN'T

KIND PARKING, ALAMEDA RESIDENTS.

METERED PARKING BETWEEN TAYLOR AND LINCOLN HAS BASICALLY BEEN ELIMINATED AND REPLACED WITH 15 MIN/DROP-OFF PARKING. PARKLETS HAVE BEEN BUILT TO HELP THE RESTAURANTS.

WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO PARK?  
ALI AT DISCOUNT CITY IS FRUSTRATED WITH CARS PARKING IN HIS LOT.

WHO IS BENEFITING? CALAFIA TAQUERIA AND FRESIDE SURLY ARE, WHO ELSE?  
IS THE MONEY STAYING IN ALAMEDA? I NOTICED SOME OF THE GROUPS INVOLVED ARE OUTSIDE ALAMEDA,

SO, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IN JULY AND AUGUST 3 EVENTS / WEEK-END THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 3-4 HOURS, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 9-10 HOURS. LET THAT SINK IN! DO YOU LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

WE JUST ARE GETTING BACK FROM THE RESTRICTIONS OF COVID 19 AND YOU WANT TO PUT THIS ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE BENEFIT OF A FEW?



I WOULD SUGGEST 2 EVENTS PER  
WEEKEND, 2 WEEKENDS/MONTH  
AND ELIMINATE ALL EVENTS

IN SEPT, OCT, NOV AND DECEMBER. |  
YOU'RE ASKING US TO PUT UP WITH THIS FOR 7 MONTHS.  
GIVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD SOME  
PEACE AND GET BACK TO NORMAL  
AFTER OVER A YEAR OF COVID 19.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR

CONSIDERATION

Cut Thoms

DARLENE THOMS

GEORGE BUEHLER

OWNERS

RAGS LAUNDROMATS

645 CENTRAL AVE

ALAMEDA, CA 94501

925-285-8954

**From:** [Dennise Graham](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] taylor and webster  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:17:32 PM

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Hello Rochelle,

I am a resident on the 600 block of Taylor and wish to express my concerns about the new proposal WEAD has submitted to the Planning Department.

One of my concerns is the lack of parking for the residents on the 600 block of Taylor. Parking is extremely difficult at the best of times and with added days and the added amount of people the parking will be even worse. I am afraid to leave my house on Friday or Sat fearing that on my return there will be no parking.

I do not believe I should have to park blocks away because of the event happening at the corner of Taylor and Webster.

My other concern is the loud music that we are force to hear, whether we want to hear or not. What choice do we have.

I also invite you to visit one of these events so you get a better idea of the problem that concern not only me but the resident on the 500 and 700 blocks of Taylor.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and hope you can help resolved these concerns.

Dennise Graham  
623 Taylor Ave

**From:** [pyrohugh22@gmail.com](mailto:pyrohugh22@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [Michael Rettie](#); [Domenicos Deli](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] More thoughts on Activities at Taylor and Webster.  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 7:38:04 PM

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A few more thoughts.

Parking at the college does not do any good without transportation. People will not walk that far.

Setbacks for vehicles is not mentioned.

Setback for generators from property line is not mentioned.

How does someone get a copy of layout plans?

Who is responsible for enforcement?

If the current permit has similar set backs they are not being followed.

Thank you.

Hugh Hvolboll  
622 Taylor Ave  
[5102052567](tel:5102052567)

----- Original message-----

**From:** [pyrohugh22@gmail.com](mailto:pyrohugh22@gmail.com)  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 25, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** [RWheeler@alamedaCA.gov](mailto:RWheeler@alamedaCA.gov);  
**Cc:** Michael Rettie;  
**Subject:** Activities at Taylor and Webster.

Rochelle Wheeler,

**I support the Healing Garden and really only object to the amplified music and the large events which disrupt the neighborhood parking situation which is bad at best.**

3 days a week has been bad.

The parking on Taylor during an event is horrible. If you have to move your car you are screwed when you come back.

I have had to park blocks away from my home.

The amplified music may sound good at the event. However at my house it is unintelligible noise.

I would rather the space be returned to a Gas Station.

Hugh Hvolboll  
622 Taylor Ave.

**From:** [Johanna Hall](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#); [Eric Fonstein](#); [Brian McGuire](#); [Andrew Thomas](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on Draft Interim Permit: Taylor Ave/Webster St. Parking Lot  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 3:07:18 PM

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Greetings,

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on the extension of the interim permit for the events at the Taylor Ave/Webster St parking lot.

As property owners and 26-year Alameda residents, we are writing to you regarding the ongoing live amplified music events there.

From our vantage point, the sudden appearance of loud and popular events every weekend has come as a great surprise. If our opinions had been solicited, we would have objected to the regular concerts that fill our generally quiet neighborhood with unwanted loud music and an invasion of cars where parking is always scarce.

Given our objection to the present permit which, unbeknownst to us, runs through October, we strongly object to extending it to the end of the year and allowing increased attendance.

I actively supported the Healing Garden as a \$1,500 paid sponsor upon its inception as a space for a part-garden, part-artwork display, and part-safe outdoor place during COVID to gather with friends and neighbors. I have taken great pleasure in watching the garden and art grow and flourish.

The use of this space as a regular venue for amplified music was not something we or our neighbors were originally informed of and has proven to be contentious and irritating both from the noise and the increased traffic created, exacerbated further by the recent reduction of traffic lanes on Webster Street, automobiles speeding down our street to avoid the resulting traffic back-up, and twice weekly street sweeping parking restrictions. With St. Barnabas church and a Montessori school at one end of the block and the music venue at the other, our parking difficulties have become even more aggravating. We live at the far end of the 600 block of Taylor Avenue and even here we have had to either close our windows in these glorious summer evenings or leave altogether to get some peace and quiet during the events.

We encourage you to attend future amplified concerts to observe in person the effect on our neighborhood before you decide upon this issue.

Sincerely,

Johanna Hall and Cheryl DeGrasse

620 Taylor Ave

Mobile: 510.701.9392

Email: [thejohannahall@gmail.com](mailto:thejohannahall@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kevin Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Special Event At Webster and Taylor  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:22:37 PM

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Hi Rochelle,

My name is Kevin Shaw and I am writing to you regarding the recent Special Events that are held at the corner of Webster St and Taylor Ave in Alameda. I am actually the owner of 645 Taylor Ave., which is the second house from the parking lot side on Taylor. I am very impressed how the garden and the event set up is staged. It also brings a lot of joy to the people of Alameda.

I actually used to live in the upper unit at 645 Taylor and have a very nice tenant at the lower unit. It was brought to my attention that the events had live concerts that went on for a long period of time. The loud music was too much for a couple of days in a week. Now I heard that the concerts are going to be held more than 2 days per week. I have a concerned tenant and a few neighbors who have talked to me regarding this issue.

Although I really like to see Alameda enjoying the outdoor space, I am more concerned that my tenant might move out due to noise obstruction. I also want to rent out the unit I used to live in as well. But with the multiple concerts during the week and the weekends, it will be a challenge for me to rent out the unit.

The neighborhood of Taylor Ave and Webster St appreciates the consideration of the community enjoying the music events once in a couple of weeks, instead of multiple times in a one week period.

Thank you,  
Kevin Shaw



**From:** [Agnes Rettie](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Thomas](#); [Brian McGuire](#); [Eric Fonstein](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] regarding Taylor Lot Use Permit  
**Date:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 12:56:51 PM

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Amplified (very loud) music and all day events at the corner of Taylor and Webster have upset our neighborhood residents and businesses. Parking was already a major concern with available spaces taken up by parklets and slow streets. We have in past years enjoyed the various once a year events like Blues and Brews and the summer concerts in Crab Cove which, while affecting the neighborhood, are short term. Despite what WABA has told us the business owners we have spoken to have told of us of decreased business due to the unavailable parking, when these weekend event are in progress. We were assured by two of the members of WEAD that they hear are neighborhood concerns are doing everything they can to mitigate the problems. And that this would not be a permanent endeavor. However, we have been told they have booked events through October despite the fact that their current permit expires the end of June. We understand that they have commitments to those they have booked but I find the fact of bookings without a continued use permit somewhat troubling. And I am also angry that the city issues permits that are not better scrutinized. I have totally supported the Healing Garden, it has turned a very ugly corner in a lovely public space. But no one was ever informed of what was planned. Multiple weekend events, with greater numbers allowed, and a parking plan that that is laughable is just not acceptable to our neighborhood. I know they have gone to great effort to contain sound but I can still hear it and I am at the end of the block and I feel for those residents in closer proximity. Some compromise as to size, amplification, and frequency of events I hope can be attained.

Kathleen Agnes Rettie

610 Taylor Ave

**From:** [Michael Rettie](#)  
**To:** [Andrew Thomas](#); [Rochelle Wheeler](#); [Brian McGuire](#); [Eric Fonstein](#)  
**Cc:** [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Trish Spencer](#); [John Knox White](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on Draft Interim Permit for Taylor Webster Lot  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 4:36:48 PM

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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the interim permit for the events on the Taylor/Webster lot.

From our vantage, the sudden appearance of loud and popular events every weekend has come as a great surprise. If our opinions had been solicited, we would have objected to the regular concerts that fill our generally quiet neighborhood with unwanted loud music and an invasion of cars where parking is always scarce.

Given our objection to the present permit which, unbeknownst to us, runs through October, we strongly object to extending it to the end of the year and allowing increased attendance.

It may be that we lay outside the 300 foot notification zone for these permits, but be assured that we are affected by the events. My sympathy is more with our neighbors who are closer to the corner and are much more affected and unhappy. Know that there is no peace in their houses when the concerts are underway regardless of windows open or closed.

Imagine coming home from work to discover a loud concert going on next door, loud enough to drive you out of your home. I urge you all to visit our neighborhood and experience cause of our displeasure.

Since the beginnings of the Healing Garden we have supported the work there with our own volunteer time and donations. Little did we know what was coming when the first concert landed.

If you wonder why Westenders have a chip on our collective shoulder as the neglected sibling, this fiasco is a prime example of our frustration.

Live amplified concerts in Franklin Park every weekend for 6 months? I don't think so.

Thank you for your consideration. I would urge you to recommend rejection of this permit request and reexamine the existing ongoing permit in light of the reaction of our neighborhood.

Michael Rettie

610 Taylor Ave.

[stonefly@thehighsierra.org](mailto:stonefly@thehighsierra.org)

**From:** [marie milam](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Webster / Taylor  
**Date:** Sunday, June 27, 2021 11:11:52 AM

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Hi Rochelle,

I hope you are going to help the community on Taylor and Santa Clara fight this madness.

Here is my initial letter to express a need for limitations.

I will send my recommendations before Tuesday.

Thank you for your help.

Marie Dear Greg Mc Fann,

My name is Marie Milam. I live on the 600 block of Taylor Avenue, where the corner parking lot on Webster has been turned into a full-time outdoor concert venue. I'm writing to you, as your name appears on the temporary permit, to appeal for your assistance in modifying that permit. As residents of Alameda for over 30 years, my daughter and I, are deeply committed to seeing our city flourish. We helped plant the garden in the parking lot, signed up to be on the watering team, and also donated money to the effort to support our neighbors on the Webster retail corridor that had been negatively impacted by the pandemic. However, what began as a temporary solution to an indoor dining ban has been co-opted by a few enterprising business owners, at the expense of the neighbors and community members that originally rallied in their support. We are now experiencing large ticket events with hours of amplified music every weekend, including Fridays, Saturdays, *and* Sundays. General Permit Condition #16 states that, "The sound will be operated only on the main arterials in Alameda and will not go into residential district." It most certainly does. 647 Taylor has three residential units. They are located directly next to the lot and the stage is only a few feet away. 633 Taylor has two units with families and young children and they are directly across the street. I live four houses down, in a cottage behind the street-facing house my daughter owns. I can hear the amplified music with my door closed and the TV on. The survey that was submitted along with the application was taken during the planning stages. We were never provided information about the intent to play amplified music or the fully loaded schedule. Other community locations, like Crab Cove or Park Street, host a significantly smaller number of events each year. This will be events EVERY weekend day, ALL summer long. Our ability to simply enjoy our homes in peace has been compromised. As we approach [June 15<sup>th</sup>](#) and the loosening of pandemic-related restrictions, it is my hope that the need for this outdoor venue can be reevaluated and the permit altered to prevent further residential disturbance. As a concerned resident, I would very much appreciate a timely response to this inquiry.

Sincerely ,

Marie Milam

[mariegmilam@gmail.com](mailto:mariegmilam@gmail.com)

510-205. 2170

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [marie milam](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Webster / Taylor  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:00:57 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to have an input to the draft for the planning board.

I support Art , Dance and Music in the parking lot.

**BUT WITHIN REASONABLE LIMIT**

22+ concerts all in one summer , PLUS other events covering Friday Saturday and Sunday

**EVERY WEEKEND !**

Anyone with Common

sense knows this is wrong !

I would like the concerts to end now.

**NO AMPLIFIED MUSIC.**

Fireside and Ivy room can move them to their locations.

It's a small parking lot with houses all around. The sound travels. I can hear it , four houses down in the back cottage , inside with the windows closed and the Tv on.

Ron owns the property eight houses down same side as the parking lot. His house sits in the back , he has doubled panes windows and he is mad about the noise.

Mike and Agnes lives at the very end of the block and they can hear it and are unhappy.

My friend Jessica lives on six hundred block of Santa Clara. She can't come home after work all week and relax.

She's unhappy. On Webster we have one Neighbour who works late odd hours and needs to sleep at concert time.

We have two families right across the street from the parking lot, they can't put their young children to sleep because of the noise.

What more do you need. I'm sure you have gotten many letters because I've talked to my neighbors.

What other public venue allows this kind of disturbance

Please don't allow this to continue. And to add months and a day and hours and amount of people. Is being very insensitive and disrespectful.

Oakland has " FIRST Friday "

A community neighborhood art festival. And it's free.

Once a month is ok.

One evening event ending at 9 and No amplified music

One day event a month 6 hours max No amplified music.

The organizers have done a good job. But it is in the **WRONG PLACE.**

Thank you

Marie Milam

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [marie milam](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Thomas](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Taylor  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:52:33 PM

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My main issue is the amplified music and too many events. !

The parking is also a big problem.

I've talked to six businesses close to the event parking lot. Their main complaint is the Parking. Event goes park in 15 minute zones for the duration and the restaurants coffee shop and corner store lose business from their regular customers because of no parking. Businesses with parking lots have to call for towing. I have off street parking but a lot of my neighbors don't. Coming home from work on Fridays and have to park two three blocks away is no fun or fare. And if your car is full of kids and groceries and no parking available makes life very difficult. I have neighbors who don't want to leave on the weekends because their parking will be gone.

We pay taxes and have rights !

Please don't ignore us !

Thank you

Marie

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Andrew Thomas](#); [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Cc:** [Brian McGuire](#); [Eric Fonstein](#)  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT Taylor Lot Use Permit conditions  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:16:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT-edit by MMilam.pdf](#)  
[Lot in Question.pdf](#)

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Your attachments have been security checked by Mimecast Attachment Protection. Files where no threat or malware was detected are attached.

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Dear Andrew Thomas,

I understand you are very busy and I thank you for addressing our issues with the Venue on Taylor and Webster. I understand from speaking with people in the neighborhood that the West Alameda Business Association is looking to apply for another permit for the space - a "Use Permit" rather than what has already been granted to them, a "Special Event Permit." The draft, which was sent to us by Rochelle Wheeler, reads as if it was composed by the applicant. However, I was told it was drafted by you. Is there an official application started by the West Alameda Business Association for a new Permit? Or does your department find it fit to issue this new permit due to the complaints brought upon the residents? Regardless, thank you for sharing the draft and allowing us to give our input on an official platform.

**My Main concern with the current Special Event Permit and the Draft of the new Use Permit is the permission of Amplified Music.**

**Secondly it seems as if applicants can easily apply for a 2.5 year extension of Use Permits.**

I am an avid music fan. I frequent venues all over the Bay Area. I have not been to, nor can I find currently any venue outdoors, in an established residential neighborhood that hosts concerts multiple times per week for as many months as it already has and for the future events planned, as does the pop-up venue at the corner of Taylor and Webster street. Can you please provide me a location which allows such activity?

Attached is my copy of my input to the "Draft" with changes highlighted in yellow. I have also attached an informational timeline that describes the journey I've gone through so far to get the peace I am entitled to as a resident on this block. Please let me know if I need to provide said documents in a different format.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Milam

[REDACTED]

## DRAFT

### Webster/Taylor Lot – Events Program Interim Use Permit Conditions

1. Term of Use Permit: Four months, July 1 through November 30, 2021. Use permit expires on November 30, 2021.
2. Types of Events: Music (including small, free acoustic concerts. No Amplified Music) Live dance performances; Crafts markets, art exhibitions, “flea market” type fundraisers; Spoken Word events; Free community events such as yoga.
3. Days of Week: Events limited to Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
4. Frequency of Events: Events limited to 3 event days per week in July and August, and 2 event days per week from September, October, November and December.
5. Capacity Limits:
  - a. Thursday Events limited to 150 tickets,
  - b. Friday to 150 tickets,
  - c. Saturday to 150 tickets, and
  - d. Sunday to 150 tickets.Traffic in and out of the Posey Tube and along SR 61 will increase with increased ticket sales
6. Event Parking:
  - a. All event advertising shall encourage use of alternative forms of transportation: ride share, Uber/Lyft, bicycling, downtown garage on Oak Street, AC Transit, and walking. For Menagerie events, parking at the College of Alameda will be rented (currently at a cost of \$750 per event).
  - b. Provide parking for staff and vendors at Beacon Bank and US Bank parking lots.
  - c. Provide links to all public transportation websites, via emails to attendees.
  - d. Provide signs for the laundromat parking lot stating: “No event parking”. Provide staff to monitor to make sure people aren’t using the laundromat lot.
  - e. Secure bike parking will be provided onsite for 12 bicycles for events with 100 or more attendees, and for 18 bicycles for events with 300 or more attendees.
7. Event Time Limits: Events limited to the following times:
  - a. Thursday: 5p - 8p,
  - b. Friday 5p - 9p,
  - c. Saturday: 11a – 9p, and
  - d. Sunday: 11a – 8p.e. Set up and breakdown activities may occur for up to 3 hours before and 2 hours after events.

**8. No Amplified Sound: No Amplified sound of any type (live band, DJ, background music)**

9. Sound Consultant shall provide noise readings for all events to City.

10. Public Right of Way:

- a. All activities kept within the confines of the lot and traffic will not be blocked on Taylor or Webster Street for any reason.
- b. Equipment and lighting may not obstruct vehicular traffic.
- c. No Street Closures
- d. Attendees waiting to enter will form a line along sidewalk on Webster St. 11.

Property shall be kept in a clean and orderly manner, free from debris.

12. Fire Protection:

- a. Fire extinguisher for general use located at exit and readily accessible, classification 2A:10B:C
- b. Generators shall not be located within 20 feet of tents/canopies.
- c. No Pyrotechnics

13. Security: For ticketed events with 100 or more attendees, security staff will be posted at both entrances and exits to the space. A bracelet system will be in place to facilitate ID checks for alcohol sales. Provide security and traffic control as needed. If needed, must use City of Alameda Police Officers on overtime basis, at applicant's expense. Number of Officers to be determined by the reviewing Police Watch Commander.

14. Layout, including Tents: Tent/Canopy location and layout must be according to approved plans and shall not be located within 20 feet of buildings, lot lines and vehicles. No open flames allowed under tents/canopies.

**15. Layout of the event space will be ADA compliant and accessible.**

**From:** [rosalie chan](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Parking lot concert issue  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:16:45 AM

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Dear Rochelle:

Please help us let the city know about the problems on Taylor and Webster corner parking lot weekend concert event. It is serious.

1, My tenant can't find parking space for their own car. The street parking is fully occupied by the concert goer during the concert weekend.

2, Music supposed to ended at 8 PM. But they still paying after 8PM. It causes the children can't sleep at night. But they have to attend school the next morning.

Only the city can stop issue permit for this. Please help. My tenants are threatening to move because of this. Your help will be deeply appreciated.

Rosalie



**From:** [RONALD MACKRODT](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Healing Garden  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 8:45:04 AM

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Ms Wheeler

Please allow me to add my voice to my neighbors', both residential and commercial, regarding the impact of the "Healing Gardens" recently opened at the corner of Webster and Taylor. As first presented to us, the Garden seemed a good idea, presenting local artists in a verdant setting. In the event, much of the art presented has been in the form of amplified music in a for profit, ticketed concert setting. Not what we were expecting. These concerts are scheduled for months to come, sometimes back to back. The resulting noise level, traffic congestion and street trash have overwhelmed our neighborhood. Let me elaborate:

**Noise:** I have been a home owner on Taylor Ave since 1985. One of the joys of my home has been spending a few quiet hours in my garden, relaxing after a hard day's work and enjoying the tranquility of my surroundings. This is no longer possible as the amplified music from the for-profit concerts blasts through my yard. My only recourse is to retreat indoors, where even the sound deadening inserts I have installed in my windows (at considerable expense) fail to filter out the music outside. With approaching summer and the expected heat waves, even this limited respite will soon be unavailable.

A sound meter shows the noise level outside my windows to be far in excess of the 55 dBA specified in city regulations. There seems no one present at the concerts to address this issue. How loud does the sound need to be to be heard in a parking lot? Where are the city engineers? Does this violate conditions of the existing permit? A bit of acoustic engineering (speaker placement and volume modulation come to mind) would go a long ways towards alleviating the excessive sound issue. BTW: a sheet of 4mil plastic sheeting, while cheap and easy to install, does nothing to attenuate sound. Currently, concert music can be clearly heard at the extreme ends of the 600 and 700 block of Taylor.

**Traffic:** Apparently, concert attendees are not using public transportation as planned. My street is choked with cars double parked on concert days, in hopes of finding a vacant parking space. Private driveways and merchant parking are fair game. Last Saturday, as my girlfriend was attempting a left turn into my driveway (turn indicators flashing) her car was sideswiped by a car passing on the left. Hit and run, APD notified.

**Street Trash:** It has become a regular, morning after a concert, chore to pick up beer bottles and other assorted trash from my shrubbery, gutters and back of my truck.

This is a new development, concurrent with the opening of the Garden.

Our pleas with the WEAD have been met with a blind eye and deaf ear. While acknowledging the noise and congestion, they seem unable or unwilling to remedy the problems they have created. I beg of you to consider the impact that these for-profits events are having on the quality of life in our neighborhood. My understanding is that a new permit is under consideration that will increase the attendance at future concerts; its a safe bet that our existing problems will increase in proportion.

Given the amount of open space available in Alameda (Crab Cove, Alameda Point), can we move the venue of the Gardens to a less invasive location? Please pull the

plug on this neighborhood nuisance and deny any future permits.  
Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your reply.  
Ron Mackrodt

**From:** [Stacy Marino](#)  
**To:** [Sarah Henry](#); [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Webster/Taylor log  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 9:14:12 PM

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Sarah and Rochelle,

Hello. We are writing to you in regards to the events that have been taking place in and around the parking lot on the corner of Webster and Taylor. It was much to our surprise when vendors started setting up on the sidewalk and then in the lot. There were no initial warnings or contact with the residents to make us aware. We had no clue if the people setting up had permits or just people trying to sell things during pandemic to make a living.

Having vendors with pop-up tents makes it extremely hard to see the traffic on Webster traveling towards Central when turning from Taylor.

We live towards the end of the 600 block of Taylor and can hear the amplified music quite clearly while inside our home. This is very disturbing. If it's that loud for us, I would hate to know how it is for those that live closer to the lot.

The increase of traffic coming down the block has changed the quiet neighborhood that we are used to. Not to mention the vehicles driving up the block at high rate of speeds or those without any concerns for others and driving unsafely while looking for a parking space.

Why can't these events, especially the concerts, be held at Crab Cove? There used to be the Concerts on the Cove before the pandemic. This would allow people to use the parking lot on the corner of Webster and Taylor for vehicles. Not to mention the noise wouldn't affect as many residents and local businesses.

We do support the Healing Garden, but don't feel the same about the events and concerts. Traffic and parking in the area are already having a negative effect by the parklets. Continuing to have events and concerts will make it even worse as there will be people slowing down to see what's going on, looking for parking, not crossing at the crosswalks, crossing without looking if it is safe, and so many more.

Thank you for your time. It is greatly appreciated if you reconsider allowing these events to take place.

Regards,  
Stacy and Peter Marino

**From:** [tora newcomer](#)  
**To:** [Rochelle Wheeler](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] webster taylor lot comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 6:39:57 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Tora, and I live at 644 Taylor Ave apt B.

I am writing to add my comments feedback and concerns about the use permit before this topic goes to the officials when creating a final draft to present to the planning board about the permit.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns and experience.

Amplified sound:six is alot for Saturday. Especially when or if this is all weekend long. The music has been at different levels of loudness and when I am in my home on the weekend I don't like hearing it as this is my time to have some peace and quiet.I would like to see less hours on Saturday and perhaps a max of 2-3 days a weekend so it is not every day in a row. OK i see the # of days in a row on the weekend never mind.

I agree about the line and containment and lack of street closures. I'd like to add that I do not have a parking spot with my apt- but when I rented my apt I was aware that I could usually park very close to home. I have kids, stuff to carry and groceries etc. Since these events have starting I Usually park a couple blocks away and I find this irritating and inconvenient. I also try to never move my car or go grocery shopping on the weekend cause i know I won't be able to park nearby so I just try to never leave and go in my car, but of course getting away for the day is helpful too.

In general if I had known that I'd be living across the st from these events I would not have rented my apartment in the first place.

as for security that is a good thing but people do stand on the side walk to watch and listen and don't neccessarily come into the space.

the time limits seem long on sat and sunday 11 hours on sunday is a long day. I am not fearful of the people coming and going it just feels crowded sometimes.

I realize I am supposed to comment on the details of the permit but in general I feel upset that I was never consulted as a neighbor who lives across the st and 3 doors down, that there are lots of people coming to and from all weekend, that I hear noise and music in my living room and back yard when I need to rest on the weekends. I am a nurse and I have been working throughout the pandemic and when I am home I don't want to be across the st from a concert or streetfair every weekend all summer.

Id actually like to move but I have another year on my lease. I also don't want to spend my valuable free time addressing this issue as i find this stressful in itself. the lack of consultation and lack of consideration is upsetting to me personally. I feel like my best option is to just accept it for what it is and look forward to moving next spring. instead of using up my energy on this topic. Even though I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns.

of all of the places in alameda that don't border a residential neighborhood, like the point- I wonder why the webster st lot had to be the place. I also realize and care that businesses have suffered during the pandemic and I want my neighbors to regain their losses and to succeed and make money and do well financially. I know many have been devastated by this awful last year and a half. . I just wish it didn't have to be so loud and close to me and that it was something I could have had some say beforehand. the lack of control feels pretty bad.

thank you for listening to my concerns and I appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns.

Thank you

Tora

Tora Newcomer, RN