



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS' PREMIERE SPORTS EXPERIENCE

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

APR 17 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

April 13, 2006

State of Illinois  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PCB06-152

This letter is to address the matters delineated in the correspondence forwarded by Complainants James and Lynn Chew, 1600 Neil Lane, Carbondale, Illinois regarding a filing with the Illinois Pollution Control Board on March 27, 2006. Herein I will respond to the specifics of their complaints, as well as speak to the general matters of noise regulations for the Carbondale municipality, my continuing efforts to be mindful of noise emanating from my business concern, and specifically, metered noise level readings that I have personally monitored in order to be proactive in regulating noise levels associated with Sports Blast.

Overview.

Sports Blast is a 43,800 sq. ft., multi-sport, recreation, and entertainment venue offering a wide variety of activities and programs—from a indoor soccer field offering everything from Soccer Tots for children ages 1.5-6 years old to fully competitive volleyball leagues, softball and baseball training programs taught by recognized professionals with batting cages for indoor and outdoor use, indoor tennis facilities and youth tennis academy, a 24-hour weight training and workout facility, children's arcade, a dedicated children's birthday party and meeting room, and an entertainment staging area for bands. Additionally, Sports Blast works with many outside organizations throughout the community in varied programs and services to include advanced athletic programs on the High School and College level.

Since the inception of Sports Blast I have been concerned with, and taken a personal interest in the betterment of the community and have worked hand-in-hand with the city to address every matter—often proactively—to be a good corporate citizen. For example, virtually every wall and ceiling surface is insulated to help abate any noise generated by Sports Blast activities. Additionally, I recently completely replaced a door/ wall facing on the east side of the building in order to eliminate potential noise leakage resulting from music generated on the premises. Overall, I work to hold noise to a minimum, regardless of the Sports Blast program or activity.

Regarding the specifics of the complaint.

I take exception to the complaint filed by complainant regarding instances of noise pollution cited (dates and times listed in the notice of complaint) for the following reasons:

1. The specific dates and times whereby complainant specified that noise expressly emanating from Sports Blast occurred were not known to me, not represented to me, or registered as a complaint to me, either informally or formally until this moment. Had I been informed, I would have, as I always do, taken measures to work the matter to some mutual satisfaction—if indeed a problem existed.
2. Carbondale City Code 14-4-7 says this about the matter of noise pollution... *"14-4-7 B. Noise From Any Property: It shall be unlawful for any person to use or operate a device which produces loud and raucous sounds at a distance greater than fifty feet (50') during the nighttime hours or greater than one hundred feet (100') during daytime hours from any boundary line of the property upon which the device is located..."* That given, there is no violation. The Sports Blast facility is fully one mile away from the address listed by complainant, **not 1/3 mile to 1/2 mile as stated by complainant in the notice.** Additionally, there exist myriad other potential noise generators situated between the Sports Blast facility and complainant's address to include:
  - Carbondale Community High School. Enrollment 1,000+ students. On the school grounds proper is a football stadium and basketball facility, as well as activity facilities throughout. A full student parking lot system with entrance/exit lanes fronts Giant City Road to the East. The Carbondale High School Administration Building is also located on the school property separate from the high school proper.
  - Giant City Road. A major community North/South thoroughfare that is 4/10 mile West of complainant address.
  - Several other functional facilities to include a mobile home park, churches, retail establishments (North), and others.
3. I have, however, gone beyond the mere reading of local Carbondale, Illinois statutes in order to be compliant. I researched the matter of noise measurement and the specific issue of noise pollution and noise decibels, **even though that measurement is not part of the Carbondale City Statute.** These are my findings. In order to accommodate the full range of noise measurement, measurement compresses the entire range of audible sounds into a logarithmic scale which corresponds to the human ear's sensitivity to sound. The unit of measurement is called the decibel (dB). Here is a comparison of common sounds with their dB levels:

150 dB	Jet take off at close range on the ground
130 dB	Machine gun
120 dB	Thunderclap
107 dB	Loud power mower
94 dB	Pneumatic jackhammer
90 dB	Sports car, truck, shouted conversation
50-60dB	Normal conversation
50 dB	Quiet street
40 dB	Quiet room

Additionally, given the acceptable dB levels for Land Use Category B (that category befitting of the land usage and dwelling of complainant and areas surrounding—residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sports areas, and parks), that being 70dB exterior, I measured dB readings the

evening of April 8, 2006 over two separate times (9:30pm and 11:30pm), and of certain adjacent locations in order to ascertain if, indeed, a noise pollution problem did exist. My findings:

Time	Location	dB reading
9:30pm	Sports Blast Front entrance	54.5 dB
	Sports Blast edge of property (East Side)	48.0 dB
	Carbondale HS Administration Building	44.0 dB
	Giant City Road Adjacent to Neal Lane	72.5 dB ( high traffic)
	1600 Neal Lane, Complainant address	46.0 dB
11:30pm	Sports Blast Parking area	54.0 dB
	Sports Blast East side property	54.0 dB
	Carbondale HS Administration Building	44.0 dB
	Giant City Road	69.0 dB (moderate traffic)
	1600 Neal Lane	42.0 dB

When compared to acceptable dB levels for Land Use Category B, the above readings are acceptable within the given parameters and so **does not constitute noise pollution** generally, or certainly not "loud and raucous sounds" as described as unlawful under Carbondale code 14-4-7.

Summary statement.

Given that I have made every attempt both to be proactive regarding any issues of noise emanating from the Sports Blast facility proper, and continue to work to follow all laws and community regulations as a good citizen in the Carbondale, Illinois business community, I must state that not only do I find the repeated complaints levied by complainants James Chew and Lynn Chew "frivolous" as outlined in the notice of formal complaint to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, but completely unfounded as the matter pertains to any local or state noise codes. Should complainants continue to levy such frivolous accusations, particularly given that they misrepresented their position referencing their location in respect to that of Sports Blast, I will have to consider their actions harassing in nature and reserve the right to pursue the matter by every legal means available to me.

Regards,



Dirk F. Borgsmiller  
Sports Blast, L.L.C.  
1215 E. Walnut Street Carbondale, IL 62901