

# City of Norman

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# Historical Background

- Has been discussed 17 times since 2016
- On 12/12/24 Rick Knighton provided an overview, including what constitutes a violation, the Special Events Permit, Noise Variances, Entertainment District Overlays
- 6/12/18 SPUD approved for outdoor live entertainment at Hollywood Corners
- 05/23/23 SPUD approved for outdoor live entertainment at Midway Deli
- NPD purchased Sound meter in 2017



# Special Events Ordinance

- Reasonably expected to attract 1000 or more people
- Security, Fire and EMS
- Permit Application and Process
- Supporting documents such as an event map, promotional literature, contact information, certificate of liability, no prior violations, street closure information
- Event access requirement
- Signage, Safety and Health Requirements
- Noise Variance

# Noise Ordinance

- District Noise Levels – decibels
- Motor vehicle noise
- Sound level measurements
- Noises Prohibited
- Exemptions
- Variances

# Disturbing the Peace violation

24-403 – No person shall disturb the peace of another by: Playing or creating loud or unusual sounds.

- Criminal offense typically involves making or engaging in disruptive behavior that disturbs the peace of another
- Loud parties, loud music, shouting, screaming
- Citizen signed complaint against another person different than police officer citing a person for violation of the noise ordinance; typically neighbors
- If charge signed normally send to Mediation Program to allow neighbors to resolve issue
- Fraternity houses are different
  - Who is citation issued to? The Fraternity? The President? Members?

# Enforcement

- Challenging for law enforcement
- Limited resources, manpower, prioritize efforts based on situation and other matters
- Noise complaints may be considered law priority
- Responding promptly is challenging
- Not all officers have access to equipment
- Measuring noise levels is not easy; determining ambient level

# New Issue

Should the City consider additional regulations for large-scale concerts and entertainment events conducted at fraternity houses or other private properties?

- Large fraternity concerts are not unique to Norman or OU
- Becoming an established feature of Greek life at major universities
- Recent concerts in Norman, DaBaby, The Chainsmokers, B.O.B. and Boogie Wit Da Hoodie
- Other colleges generally don't prohibit these events; they regulate the characteristics and impacts of the events such as attendance, fire capacity, security, noise, alcohol, traffic, parking, temporary structures, public-safety requirements
- University Property v. Private Property; not all colleges are the same
- OU fraternities are private

# What can we do?

- Review/Amend the Special Events Ordinance?
- Allow large-scale events in commercially zoned areas only?
- ???

# QUESTIONS?

