

**Rollingwood Pickleball Ordinance
Response to Proposed Amendment & Support Materials**

- The City’s own sound measurements showed the ambient noise at Mr. Harris’ property line to be 48 decibels, which clearly illustrates the problems with the current 47 decibel level.
- The proposed new level of 51 decibels seems to have been developed by Mr. Harris in reliance on an article about Bob Unetich, a pickleball sound expert. However, Mr. Harris mis-characterizes several important aspects of this article:
 - 1) First, the 50 db level that Mr. Unetich says is “ideal” is for the **average** (pg 9) sound level – not peak sound level like our current ordinance provides. Our ordinance currently prohibits any averaging. Mr. Unetich says the average pb sound level is 59 Db whereas the occasional peak sound level is 70 Db. Given our current ordinance language, this makes this 50 Db reference irrelevant for all practical purposes.
 - 2) Second, this 50 db level that Mr. Unetich says is “ideal” is for large, public facilities in the middle of a town or subdivision. What the expert is really saying is that communities should locate public pb facilities 977 ft. away from homes; because at that distance the sound is only 50db and barely audible at all. Such a low db level may be appropriate for a large public facility with perhaps dozens of courts operating sunup to sundown, but not for our situation. We will have one court operating under very stringent hour limitations. This is apples and oranges.
 - 3) Third, Mr. Harris claims that the expert says that the sound limit should be no more than 3 db above background noise. That’s not what he really said. What Bob Unetich actually says is that in noisier city environments, he proposes a limit a 3 db above background. His sound chart shows City ambient noise at 55 db, which means Bob Unetich proposes a 58 db **average** limit for Urban environments. Again, this is a mis-characterization of what the expert is actually saying.
- Instead, I would propose the following:
 - Rely exclusively on the use limitations to accomplish all your objectives and drop the pb specific sound limitations entirely. By limiting play to one court, between the hours of 8 am to 8 pm, for a max of 2 hours per day, nearly all of the problems previously experienced would go away. AND, you would have an ordinance that’s amazingly easy to interpret and enforce without expensive equipment or difficult interpretation of instruments.

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