



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

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August 20, 2012

VIA U.S. MAIL and ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: warrenj@darenc.com

Dare County Board of Commissioners
C/O Warren Judge, Chairman
Post Office Box 1000
Manteo, NC 27954

Re: Proposed Noise Control Ordinance

Dear Chairman Judge and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce and its members, I am writing regarding the proposed Noise Control Ordinance on the County's agenda for public hearing the evening of August 20, 2012. The proposed Noise Control Ordinance may have a potential negative effect on businesses in unincorporated Dare County, particularly those located on Hatteras Island. Everyone agrees that noise issues must balance the needs of those who do not want their lives unreasonably disrupted with the practical consideration that many businesses depend on event services that provide a joyous and exciting atmosphere through music and celebration. The harder decision becomes exactly how to balance those concerns in a way that is the most fair for all involved. Unfortunately, the Chamber does not have a precise answer to that question at this time.

Given sufficient input and time for consideration, we have no doubt that the Board of Commissioners will develop a proper balance. Tonight's meeting will not likely provide the Board with the necessary input or time for consideration. Outer Banks businesses are in the midst of their peak season. As noted by many who spoke at the Planning Board meeting last week, changing the County's noise regulations at this time in the current season will likely have a negative impact on long ago developed plans that cannot now be modified. Furthermore, many business owners and operators do not currently have the time to make their voices and suggestions heard to the Board of Commissioners. Nor do they have the time to research and prepare a detailed ordinance counter-proposal. The legislative process will be furthered by the Board of Commissioners tabling the proposed noise regulations until a later date, which will allow for more input and will cause less impact on current business operations.

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The Chamber respectfully requests that the Board of Commissioners table its consideration and decision on modifications to the County's noise regulations until after this current tourist season has ended so that:

1. Business owners and operators who are busy working with clients and customers will have a better opportunity to voice their thoughts and recommendations;
2. Business owners and operators will be able to minimize any potential revenue loss associated with the changed regulations; and
3. Business owners and operators will be able to consider any new regulations and adjust their business and customers' plans for next season accordingly.

If you have any questions regarding the position of the Chamber on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Robin Mann, Chair
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

cc: OBX Chamber Board of Directors
Hatteras/Ocracoke Island Council

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