

From: [Anne Kukowski](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Wabasha Brewery Variance request - objections
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2026 6:57:51 PM
Attachments: [Wabasha Brewery 2026 Aug Sept.pages](#)
[Wabasha Brewery 2026 Aug Sept.pages](#)

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Attached and below, please find a letter objecting to Wabasha Brewery's requests for sound level variances for August, September, and October of 2026. Please also note the attached and supporting photographs.

August 1, 2026
444 Hall Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55107

St. Paul City Council

Dear Madams:

We are once again writing to object to the variance requested by Wabasha Brewery for Saturdays in August, September, and October of 2026. Please know that, unless and until things change, we object to every sound level variance requested by the brewery, even if we do not send a letter. The time I have spent researching the law and drafting letters to object is considerable. Having to repeatedly write and object to these the brewery's variance requests in order to protect rights guaranteed St. Paul residents under the law is an undue burden.

I understand that you feel that the brewery has made concessions. Regardless of any concessions that may have been made, the problem has not been resolved. The problem is that the music is so loud that we can hear every word from our back deck and generally also within our house even with all doors and windows closed. Even within the house, the sound is loud enough that it is impossible to carry on typical domestic activities, such as reading, conversing, playing an instrument, etc.

Earlier this year, the brewery sought and was granted a sound level variance on behalf of a RiOt MoM Art & Self Care Festival. We used a decibel meter to measure the sound on our deck immediately outside our back door. The levels measured were consistently in the 70s and spiked at 80 decibels. We then proceeded about 150 feet to the bottom of our lot, directly next to the brewery's parking area. Here, the meter consistently registered 70+ decibels. Photos of readings made at our property border have been attached and transmitted with this letter. (I did not think to photograph the results of measurements taken earlier on our deck. Had I done so, I would have included these photos as well.) While one would expect sound level to attenuate over this distance, the readings indicate that it does not attenuate. Instead of setting the maximum level at 80 decibels, the level at which hearing damage can occur, we propose the maximum be set at 50 decibels. The patrons will certainly be able to hear the music and we hope that the events will be much less intrusive to us. We would appreciate your consideration.

The Brewery is the only commercial property on this block. Even without an event, the brewery disruptive to the neighborhood. The patrons increase traffic, congestion, parking violations, safety concerns, and litter. Even on a day when the brewery is not having an event, we can hear games and conversations held in their outdoor area. In previous years, the employee running the games used a microphone. Note that we could have complained, but did not; our goal is not to shut down all activities, but to arrive at a solution that works for them and us. Permitting music up to 80 decibels does not work for us.

I would also request that the variance requested for September 19th be denied. September 19 is my

birthday. Other years we could and did plan to be away for some of the days for which Wabasha Brewery requested variances. However, between increases in the cost of living, including a 12.6% increase in property taxes in 2026, our fixed income no longer allows us this option.

As I sat down inside the house, at 6:11 pm on Sunday, August 1, there is amplified music coming from the brewery's outdoor stage. We have not been notified of any request for a variance this evening. While the music is not nearly as loud as the events for which the Council issues variances, it is still audible inside and outside the house. Since the Brewery's permit requires a variance for any amplification of outdoor music, they are in violation of their permit. This has happened more times than we have counted. Wabasha Brewery does not abide by the term of their license, yet there are no repercussions.

Sincerely,

Anne Kukowski and Steve Gammon



