

What you need to know about the Outdoor Live Entertainment Study (Zoning Docket 030/22)

Full Report: [Outdoor Live Entertainment Study](#) (see recommendations in pages 73-81)

This report was compiled between March of 2020 and January of 2021, during the first year of the Coronavirus pandemic. For this reason, it is largely reactionary to the shuttering of indoor performance space and recommends a 1 year “**Temporary Special Events Permit**” to allow businesses a major increase in the number of outdoor live entertainment events they may hold. This one year Temporary Permit program will act as a pilot for subsequent potential permanent changes.

What is currently allowed: 8 events per year with max 3 days per event (24 days/year)

Study recommendations: 2- 3 times per week (104 - 156 days per year)

Will this rely on the sound ordinance for enforcement?

No. The study continuously references the unenforceability of the current sound ordinance, noting it as a “*an unhelpful partner in assuring peaceful cohabitation of outdoor live entertainment with its neighbors.*”

How will this be regulated? Through hours of operation, furniture and speaker placement, and distancing between residential uses:

- Hours are limited to: (with extended hours for Arts & Cultural Overlays)
 - 12pm - 8pm, Mon-Thurs
 - 12pm - 9pm Friday
 - 11am - 9pm Saturday
 - 11am - 8pm Sunday
- Tables and chairs should occupy at least 50% of the outdoor floor area (not including landscape areas.)
- Speakers and instruments shall be directed away from adjacent residences to the greatest extent possible.
- Permits will require a rear yard buffer to an adjacent residential district equivalent to the required rear yard, or a minimum of 15 ft. whichever is greater.
- Permits will require a noise/sound abatement plan for mitigation and complaints. Documentation of repeated violations may result in revocation of a temporary permit.
- Regulation and enforcement will be performed by **Safety & Permits with Code Enforcement**

Who can get the 1 year temporary permit?

- “An occupiable building and business” on public or private property, which can include, but is not limited to, restaurants, bars, breweries, cultural facilities, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc.
- Available for all zoning districts

What happens next?

Zoning Docket 030/22 may be heard as early as May 10 by the City Planning Commission. Their recommendation will go to the New Orleans City Council for consideration.

You can submit comments to the City Planning Commission via cpcinfo@nola.gov (make sure to include Zoning Docket 030/22 in the subject line)

Questions you should be asking

- What is the review process to evaluate the success of the pilot?
- When will the Sound Ordinance be updated to effectively regulate and manage sound to mitigate potential negative impacts?
- Does the city have the personnel to enforce the rules in the pilot program?