

Ken MacNab

From: Kristin Casey [kncaseylaw@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 3:32 PM
To: Ken MacNab
Cc: info@calistogapottery.com
Subject: from kristin casey

Ken,

Thank you for the public notice about your proposed "live entertainment test" for La Prima.

I wonder if you have had the opportunity to read the General Plan's Noise Element, which lauds Calistoga on being a "relatively quiet" town and which distinctly mandates that Calistoga shall "preserve current low levels of noise to maintain the City's rural atmosphere" and that Calistoga will "protect residents from the undesirable effects of excessive noise."

In addition, the General Plan calls for "ensuring noise exposure compatibility between neighboring land uses." One pertinent Action Item at page N-20 directs the City to "Revise the Noise Ordinance so that it contains quantitative measures to maintain Calistoga's existing low level of noise, as well as measures to address localized, temporary noise sources...."

The La Prima business has for as many years as I can remember been barred from having amplified music [and the business was purchased by the current owners with that knowledge], because it is not located in the central business area of town and is adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

In addition, this area is arguably within one of Calistoga's Entry Corridor/Gateway areas and the intent of the General Plan in regard to our gateways is that our rural small-town character will be especially preserved, and that uses in the gateways will not compete with Calistoga's downtown commercial core. Frankly, if City staff are in favor of amplified music at this gateway and if our appointed and elected representatives fail to adhere to the original intent for business in a gateway area, then I fear that our other gateways into town could be at risk of future businesses wanting amplified music which would interfere with residents' peace and quiet in their homes.

It has historically been the intent of the citizens of Calistoga that this place of business be a restaurant, not a loud music venue. I'm not sure I understand why City staff would promote the proposal for amplified music here and disregard the lengthy history of this issue, and why the very real concerns from residents of Calistoga would not be given the weight they deserve. Those of us who live in Calistoga value the fact that we can come home from work at the end of a work week and relax in relative peace in our own homes -- amplified music at the gateways to town, near residential areas that haven't historically had this kind of noise, would go a long way toward destroying our time at home.

I don't know why an "event test" is being conducted, given the clear mandate and spirit of our General Plan.

Thank you,
Kristin Casey