

## **Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group**

**Wednesday, July 30, 2025**

**DSB 107 A/B**

### **Team Check-In**

- Wade thanked the consultants for their work on the drafted noise ordinance and appreciated the feedback received from DCOAG.
- The group discussed Section 14.8 Variances and Exemptions. The group agreed to keep the Variance language, since it mainly dealt with construction noise. The group agreed to remove the Exemption section since this addition was well outside the scope of the Board's directive to address Data Center noise.
- Discussions about different instances of when a variance would be granted.
  - This will be granted for short-term use only and will need to have a legitimate reason.
  - Mandi- Suggested having the Variances posted to a website, so the public will have access to review and Variances that have been granted.
- Kathy K- discussed her concern with variance exceptions. Eric clarified that the variances will only apply during construction activities occurring after the allowable hours.
- Discussions about enforcing the Noise Ordinance (County Ordinance) on State and Federal property.
  - Captain Castilla shared with the group that an MOU already exists between the National Park Service and Prince William County for the enforcement of State and County laws on federal parkland.
  - Wade will work with PD and the County Attorney's Office to determine if the MOU is sufficient to allow the County to enforce the Noise Ordinance on Federal property.
  - The National Parks Authority would need to report to the local authority for noise testing to be conducted.
  - The park service will not enforce noise violations.
- Eric- recommended a few noise testing techniques that may be used as a workaround if the MOU isn't sufficient.
- DCOAG discussed that schools/ private schools are in some commercial areas.
  - Noise impacts on education vary and should be addressed within the zoning ordinance. Since schools are typically not in session during nighttime hours, the influence of data centers on educational facilities is minimal compared to their impact on residential communities.
- The group has suggested that an advisory committee for new school construction standards be created.

- Bill W/ Kevin C- Will work together to draft some revised language for 14.1 and will share with Wade and the consultants.
- Kevin discussed a concern about how loud levels of noise are in fact, very unhealthy for people. The ordinance would be a good opportunity to share how serious this is to the human body.
  - Eric shared his concern that David's standards and verbiage on Section 14.1 should be enough to have in the ordinance, which covers the range of impacts on health with constant noise. Adding additional verbiage will create more problems in court.
- Dale - addressed concerns about the adjustment to the low frequency levels. Dale feels strongly that we need to lower the levels in the low-frequency range.
  - Eric addresses the need to have defensible levels that will stick in court. The recent testing did show the noise violations in the Great Oak community.
- Eric stated that noise limits are lower than anywhere in the US and explained that the levels recommended in the draft Noise Ordinance are already stringent.
- Kathy K- is aware of the impact that the great oak community has and agrees that the county does not have all the evidence that is needed to justify (in court) lower noise levels.

#### **Team Check out**

- Discussed the need to make additional edits and to provide the updated version to the County Attorney's office for their review.
- DCOAG agreed with the 3-30 Second readings for noise testing.
- Discussed the new meters that would need to be purchased for PD and staff to conduct noise testing.
- Wade Hugh updated the DCOAG regarding the Basis and Background document that David Nelson will be providing to the DCOAG as soon as it's completed.
- Wade outlined some additional steps that will need to be taken following the approval of the Noise Ordinance by the Board of County Supervisors.
- Kevin – Feels the consultants have been helpful, and Eric has provided measuring techniques to DCOAG. Local jurisdictions will come to use our noise ordinance. This is helping with providing the BOCS background that will lead.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**