



CITY OF

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

**CHLOE EUDALY, COMMISSIONER**

Suk Rhee, Bureau Director

**Noise Control Program**

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110

Portland, Oregon 97204

*Promoting a culture of civic engagement*

**FINDINGS AND DECISION OF  
THE NOISE REVIEW BOARD**

APPLICANT: GREEN SAVOREE RACING PROMOTIONS INC \*DAVID SWEENEY\*

REQUEST: THREE-YEAR, MULTI-YEAR VARIANCE for Grand Prix of Portland; an Indy Car auto racing series with supporting races. 2018 dates are 8/30/18 through 9/2/18, plus two test days (May 2, 2018 and TBD). Hours are 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

VARIANCE NUMBER: 18-145117-000-00-NV

DECIDED: APRIL 11, 2018

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***DECISION: APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS***

**BACKGROUND:**

Title 18 establishes sound levels based on the zones of both the source and receivers of noise. Events that produce noise above permitted levels may be considered for variance from the code. The Noise Review Board is charged by code to review and act upon some of these applications. The review must consider the physical characteristics; times & duration of the emitted sound; the geography, zone and population density of the affected area; whether the public health, safety or welfare is impacted; whether the sound source predates the receiver(s); and whether compliance with the standard would produce hardship without equal or greater benefit to the public. The code does not preclude review of other factors, nor does it specify the weight to be given to each criterion.

**REQUEST:**

Request from David Sweeney, on behalf of Green Savoree Promotions, Inc, for a three-year variance for Grand Prix of Portland; an Indy Car auto racing series with supporting races. 2018 dates are 8/30/18 through 9/2/18, plus two test days (May 2, 2018 and TBD).Note: one date was canceled in 2018, the Indy Car test date is set for August 3, 2018) Hours are 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

## **FINDINGS:**

- A. The public's health, welfare and safety are not affected by the anticipated noise levels, except possible temporary interference with sleep at later hours and for closer-in properties.
- B. The sound source does not predate receivers.
- C. The last criterion in reviewing Noise Variances speaks to a sort of "balancing test", in which compliance/non-compliance is measured against the "public good." Will the denying of this application produce hardship without equal or greater benefit to the public? Although "benefit" usually refers to economic gain, the Board also includes the pleasure obtained from the viewing of an event, the fostering of interest in an activity, or the pride in one's city, which occurs via national exposure. In the present case the event is not only a well recognized community event, per se, but it also contributes to the national exposure of the City of Portland. The Noise Review Board finds that denying this event will not benefit the public good.
- D. A race the size and magnitude of the this Indy Car race has not occurred at the PIR track in many years. It is anticipated that with the new neighbors in the North Portland region of the Race track and with the lack of big races in many years , that a greater community response can be anticipated from this activity at the facility.
- E. The Noise Review Board for several years now has been requiring that a web or internet based noise meter reporting system be up and running to offer good community interface to sound issues at the race track. The system has had a history of being off line and inaccessible to the public. The Board has been vocal about the need to get the system up and running without downtime during events. The required Trackside mounted noise meter, and the Community Noise mounted on a telephone pole in Kenton, were reported during the Noise Board hearing for this permit to be back up in full operation. It is the expectation of the Noise Review Board that this system is running properly and that it is fully operational to cover the Board's expectations for all varianced activity at this facility.
- F. Portland International Raceway is one of the major sources of noise in the community with in the City of Portland. During louder activity at the facility it is a source of sound that can easily be heard as far away as the Eliot Neighborhood to the South. Each year , as new neighbors move into the surrounding vicinity, new complainants are added to the list of concerned community members.

## **DECISION:**

**Motion was made by Jamie Hurd to grant a variance for David Sweeney, on behalf of Green Savoree Promotions, Inc, for a three-year variance for Grand Prix of Portland; an Indy Car auto racing series with supporting races. 2018 dates are 8/30/18 through 9/2/18, plus two test days (August 2, 2018 and TBD). Hours are 9:00 am – 5:00 pm for the races and 9:00 am – 4:00 pm for**