

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 774

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Dave Hawes, Executive Director  
East Aldine Management District  
HOUSTON, TX

My Name is Dave Hawes and I am the Executive Director, East Aldine Management District. On behalf of the District, we fully support HB 774. The District comprises almost 21 sq. miles in Harris County and in the City of Houston ETJ. We need help!! We expend a little over \$1.0 million each year for enhanced Public Safety services in conjunction with the Harris County Sheriff Department. We humbly request positive consideration of HB 774 because it addresses a serious issue we face day and night in our community. Noise and sound level regulation is an ongoing concern that affects all who live and work in the District. We need the tools necessary to protect our community. Our community deserves the same equal protection under the law as do populations living within municipalities with ordinance making powers. Please give this legislation serious consideration so that we may institute reasonable noise and sound level requirements and alleviate communities that are left defenseless. The lack of County regulation exacerbates, in a negative way, the safe and well being of residents and businesses alike. Please provide Harris County with the means to provide meaningful assistance to unprotected communities. They deserve the same equal considerations as those who live and work within municipalities. Thank you for your consideration.

Teri Koerth, Executive Director  
Airline Improvement District  
Houston, TX

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members, my name is Teri Koerth and I am Executive Director of the Airline Improvement District.

The Airline Improvement District was created by the Texas Legislature in 2005. Our District provides services to a portion of North Houston and is located completely within unincorporated Harris County. We represent approximately 2,000 businesses and 16,000 residents which are located within the District's boundaries.

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill #774. As Director of the District , I field calls on a daily basis from concerned residents and businesses on a variety of issues including noise complaints. I also attend civic club meetings in the area, and by far, the most common complaints that I receive are regarding loud noise disturbances. Many of our residents face issues with their neighbors continually playing loud music on a daily basis. Often, parties are held with live bands, speakers and microphones producing noise well above what would be considered acceptable. In fact, I recently received a call and a video showing how the music from a neighbor was vibrating objects on the walls of the complainants home for hours on end, making it difficult for them to even hear their own television. It is even more problematic when music continues late into the night and nearby residents must get up for work the next morning.

A person's home should be a peaceful place for them to rest and relax from their hectic schedule. Though loud music complaints have been less frequent during the pandemic, it is something that residents have dealt with for many years in our area. Generally, the only recourse for residents is to call the Sheriff's Department for relief. When the Sheriff's Deputies arrive to address the situation, their hands are virtually tied as they have no state regulation that specifically governs the enforcement of noise and sound levels. It is my understanding, based on conversations with the Sheriff's Department, that the only way they can currently address this situation is through a vague and difficult to enforce section of the penal code that governs disorderly conduct. House Bill#774 would give Commissioner's Court the ability to regulate noise levels emanating from a residence and allow Deputies to issue a Class C misdemeanor to any violators. This bill would help provide Harris County Deputies with effective tools to address

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noise complaints.

Thank you for discussing this important issue that faces our community. This is something that the residents in our area have needed for a very long time. I urge you to provide some relief to these individuals and give the County a means of addressing this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.