

3/13/2017

Edcgov.us Mail - Fwd: Hearing re Villa Florentina on 23 March 2017



Charlene Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>

PC 3/23/17  
#5  
3 pages

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## Fwd: Hearing re Villa Florentina on 23 March 2017

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Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>  
To: Charlene Tim <charlene.tim@edcgov.us>

Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 8:49 AM

Public comment for the Villa Florentina hearing-

----- Forwarded message -----


From: **Robert Smay** <robedonn@pacbell.net>  
Date: Sun, Mar 12, 2017 at 2:06 PM  
Subject: Hearing re Villa Florentina on 23 March 2017  
To: "planning@edcgov.us" <planning@edcgov.us>

Attached are two signed letters on the subject. Please review and include them in information on the hearing.

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### 2 attachments

 **img009.pdf**  
26K

 **img010.pdf**  
42K

1320 Scott Rd  
Coloma, CA 94513  
10 March 2017

Community Development Agency  
Development Services Division  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Sirs,

This letter is regarding the hearing about Villa Florentina on 23 March, 2017. My wife and I live at the above physical address and receive mail at PO Box 1021, Lotus, CA 95651. We are in the house at the end of Scott Rd and have lived there for almost 19 years.

We live approximately ¼ mile from Villa Florentina with a low hill, moderately forested between us and the Villa. When the weekly events are held there, we can clearly hear all the amplified sound and music from the event. We can tell you who the bride and groom are, because it is so clear in the amplified sound. These events are every weekend for at least six months of the year, always the months when you wish to enjoy the out of doors features of your home.

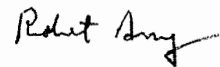
We frequently have visitors on our back deck during the summer months since we live on the river and have many rafting friends. The house intervenes between us and the Villa, but our friends frequently ask from where is all the amplified noise coming during their visits.

We also live right across the river from the Whitewater Connection campground and about ¼ mile from Marco's, Sierra Nevada House, and Squally's, so we've become accustomed to noise from commercial enterprises.

Villa Florentina makes far more noise than any of those enterprises. We wanted to live in a moderately quiet rural residential neighborhood and did so until Villa Florentina came on the scene. We attended the original hearing when Lauren Sperber originally was granted the (what we thought was a conditional use) permit, and raised objection to the commercial use even then. Mr. Anderson has been even a worse neighbor than was Mr. Sperber and both have violated conditions of use in the original permit.

We would like to see the permit revoked, but at least the original conditions met, and it is for this reason we respectfully submit this letter.

Sincerely,



Robert Smay

1320 Scott Rd  
Coloma, CA 94513  
10 March 2017

Community Development Agency  
Development Services Division  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Sirs,

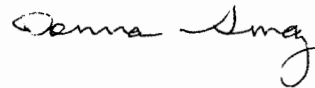
My name is Donna Smay and for almost 19 years I have lived at the end of Scott Rd about ¼ mile from Villa Florentina. My husband has already communicated our concerns as residents on Scott Rd, but I am writing to testify to my actual experiences while visiting my daughter, Robin Smay, a neighbor to Villa Florentina.

When I have visited my daughter, Robin Smay, the loud music and sound system is so loud you can't watch TV, it is difficult talk on the phone, and while sitting on her leather couch, I could hear and feel a buzzing caused by the loud sound.

Besides the unbelievably loud noise, the public one lane Coloma bridge has been blocked for wedding photo ops while the public tolerated rude behavior from the wedding party when suggesting they needed to allow traffic to pass. Is it legal to block a public bridge?

How can we protect our home life, tranquil neighborhood and community? Who do we need to see to help us, and what more do we need to do to be helped and protected?

Sincerely,



Donna Smay

PC 3/23/17

#5 pages

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2017

EL DORADO COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT

Pete and Sharon Tipshus  
Pilot Hill, CA

To the El Dorado County Planning Commission,  
We are writing as witnesses to violations committed by the business in Coloma known as Villa Florentina during the 2016 event season. We have been friends of Robin Smay's for about six years, and have visited her property many times since she purchased her home and moved to Coloma. Robin is the neighbor immediately to the north of Villa Florentina, and is the home closest to, and therefore most affected by, the violations that were occurring weekly in the valley last year. The noise violations that have been occurring make Robin's property nearly unusable during the events, and we would like to testify that the impact of the business on her property is very significant.

Originally, when Robin told us of the noise that was coming from the business at the hands of new ownership, we had to wonder if she was being oversensitive or exaggerating, since it didn't seem possible that the disruptions could be as bad as she was describing, or that such disruptions could actually be allowed to occur. Per her request, we visited her during a couple Saturday events in 2016 to see if what was occurring was what she had described to us. In fact, it was worse. When sitting on the front porch, it was not possible to have a conversation at normal volume due to the noise coming from next door. We witnessed Robin taking decibel readings, and saw that decibel violations she had described were really occurring. When inside the house, the windows had to be closed in order to even sit at the kitchen table and visit. This kind of noise feels very unreasonable, and cannot possibly be what is intended with the special permit. If we were living next door to what was occurring, we would be very upset, and we can't be sure we would even be able to keep living next to a source of such noise

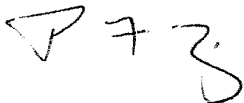
and frustration. It simply doesn't seem fair that Robin should have to endure the violations that disrupt the use of her property so much.

Robin shared with us that letters had been sent to the owner regarding the noise violations. Despite the formal notices, the second time we visited the noise was actually much worse than the first. Additionally, what concerns us very much is that we have seen highly intoxicated guests walking down Carvers Rd., which makes us wonder about the safety of Robin as our friend, and how much having drunk patrons wandering in the area is affecting neighborhood safety.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding our experiences with the events we witnessed. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Pete Tipshus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pete Tipshus'.

Sharon Tipshus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sharon Tipshus'.

Teal Triolo  
Sierra Rizing Coffeehouse and Bakery  
7310 Hwy 49  
Lotus, CA 95651  
530-642-1308

PC 3/23/17  
#5  
2 pages  
**RECEIVED**  
MAR 13 2017  
EL DORADO COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT

To The El Dorado County Planning Department,

I am contacting you because an area wedding venue, Villa Florentina, has emailed the neighborhood surrounding the business in Coloma, stating that support of my business has been a benefit of operation in the river valley. To me, it seems like the email that was sent out was intended to make the community more accepting of the violations that have been occurring, suggesting they are benefitting businesses such as mine. I feel I must object to this idea.

I have made very minimal profit from the operation of this venue in the valley, regardless of what the owner states. I do not want to be used as a reason that this or any business should be allowed to break rules and disrupt the local neighborhood, or for it to be suggested that continued operation is for my benefit, even in part. I am a business that works hard to follow the rules, and I believe other local businesses should be held to the same standard.

Thank you for your consideration,

Teal Triolo  
Owner, Sierra Rizing Bakery





Robin Smay <rsmay27@gmail.com>

**Villa florentina**

4 messages

**Adam Anderson** <admandrsn@msn.com>

Sun, Nov 6, 2016 at 6:18 PM

Dear Neighbors,

Just a note of thanks for putting up with us during the wedding season. It has been fun, exciting and most of all educational. We've meet a lot of interesting people with interesting ideas. We've had older couples, young couples, small ceremonies and large ones. Traditional and vintage style weddings to over the top Disney theme weddings with harp and cello playing Disney theme songs to Star wars theme with kids dresses as storm troopers holding the bride hostage only to be liberated by the groom. The one thing they all shared was love for each other and the love of family and friends that came together to support and celebrate with them. It's a special time and I thank each of you for also for your support.

Some of the things we've learned and changes we are making are;

- an approved list of DJ's that we know will comply with the noise ordinance and a stiff penalty written into the contract for violations. We don't have a lot of control over clapping and cheering but we've found that a good DJ/MC can do a lot to keep people in check. We've done a lot of wrestling with DJ's and apologize for those that have insisted on pushing the envelope. We've banned the non compliant DJ's and put those we know we can trust on our preferred list. I also bought a noise meter earlier in the season and routinely monitor the noise levels from different areas around the property.
- we are having a directional sign made that we plan to put at Carvers rd and Mt. Murphy during events that encourages people to drive slow. We open the gates early for guests and have instructed our parking attendants to move cars in off the road quickly to avoid back ups.
- we discourage or disallow buses, super stretch limos and photos at the bridge to avoid congestion.

These are just some of the things we are working on and we appreciate your feed back and input you've provided. 2017 is booking up fast and we already have bookings in 2018. A lot of people in our community benefit from these events including many local caterers and their staff, florists, DJ's, wedding planners, photographers, local hospitalities, cake and pastry chefs like Teal from Sierra Rising and I've even seen honey from Coloma gold. It's a real boon to many locals, a joy to our guests and hopefully not a problem to you, our neighbors.

Thanks again and as always please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Adam Anderson  
cell. 539-391-2885

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 13 2017**

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT**

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Robin** <rsmay27@gmail.com>  
To: Craig Sandberg <craig@sandberglaw.net>

Sun, Nov 6, 2016 at 6:32 PM

See below. Let the posturing and positioning begin.

I should have gotten a good sample this weekend, but I can see the politicking I'm up against.