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Concerts a Threat without New Amphitheater

By Frank J. Seibert, Co-chair

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Brenda Scott
Alberta Tinsley-Talabi

Alonzo Bates was alone in his response that developers **should** be permitted to build a racetrack and/or an open-air, amplified, concert amphitheater, and **should** conduct any outdoor amplified concerts outside the two-week period of the fair.

Not responding were: Avery Bradley, Sheila Cockrel, Barbara-Rose Collins, Kwame Kenyatta and Rev. D. Murray.

In **Ferndale**, the following candidates for **City**

cont'd on p.2

Concerts a Threat without New Amphitheater

By Frank J. Seibert, Co-chair

Despite the success we have had thus far in preventing construction of a racetrack and/or amphitheatre at the fairgrounds, a similar and perhaps more immediate threat exists to the quality of life we seek to maintain in the area. Fairgrounds operators have scheduled outdoor concerts using only existing facilities that are used during the state fair. A rap concert dubbed "Summerfest" was held at the site July 29. Around noon that day nearby neighborhoods were bombarded with loud music that continued virtually uninterrupted until around 9:00 pm. It was only then that peace was restored, thanks to a severe electrical storm that blew into the area.

"Summerfest" was not only loud, many of the lyrics can only be described as "adult" in nature. Unfortunately, those lyrics were often discernable throughout my Green Acres neighborhood, including homes where children are routinely outside on their playscapes. Music CD's and tapes, movies and cable TV boxes all have ways to permit parents to protect young children from inappropriate entertainment. But how do you protect children in a case like this? Lock them in the basement? Flee your home altogether? I don't know the answer. Sadly, it appears the operators of the Fairgrounds don't care. Another event called the "Electronic Music Festival" was scheduled for Saturday, August 4, 2001. Although cancelled, it again demonstrated their willingness to schedule outdoor concerts out-side of the two week fair time period even if a new racetrack or amphitheater is never constructed.

What can we do? One option is to seek legal relief. Thus far, ICARE has been fortunate enough to be represented, pro bono, by the excellent legal team of Eugene Driker and Geaneen Washington of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker. We applaud them for their outstanding legal work and the numerous hours spent on our behalf. In addition, we must be ready to carry out traditional mobilization and protest efforts, including registering complaints at every appropriate level (see "Postcards" article). In this election season we can vote for candidates who are sympathetic to our cause and let them know why they are receiving our support. Finally, we solicit the thoughts of all ICARE members and supporters. Come to our meetings with suggestions or contact one of the Co-chairs (see box -->).

Survey...cont'd from p.1

Council stated that they were **not in favor** of developers' being permitted to build a **racetrack or amphitheater**, or **conduct amplified concerts outside the period of the State Fair**:

Dave Lennon **Robert Lindemann**
Scott Galloway **Dennis Emmi**
Helen Weber

In the race for **Mayor**, **Mike Christman** was **Not in favor** of a **racetrack**, and had "No opinion at this time" on the **amphitheater** and **amplified concerts**. As a former Council member, **Bob Porter** voted to join the City of Ferndale in our lawsuit, and continues to support us. In **Detroit**, **Gil Hill** expressed support for ICARE in a phone conversation, neither he nor **Kwame Kilpatrick** replied in writing.

ICARE meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm, at St. John's Church, Woodward and Woodstock, one block south of Eight Mile Rd.

Complaints...cont'd from p.1

amphitheater. When asked about the amphitheater at a recent candidates' night, **Kwame Kilpatrick**, candidate for Mayor of Detroit stated, referring to a new K-Mart that was built on Detroit's west side, that if only a few people had protested it, then the remainder of the people must have been for it.

We will forgive him his questionable logic. But he either does not know or has forgotten that approximately 2,500 people signed petitions against the race track and outdoor amphitheater.

So ICARE is now making available some postcards for neighbors to send to people in city and state government (Mayor, City Council, Governor, Attorney General, State Fair Advisory Council) titled "Nuisance Documentation".

The cards are easy to use. Simply fill in the date of the event, your name and address (labels will do), and mail. This is a great way to keep this issue alive and on-going in the minds of those in positions of power to effect what happens with the Fairground and adjoining properties. Keep some of these postcards on hand, and use them the next time you're annoyed by the fairgrounds noise pollution.

To get some postcards, please call 248-548-5974

The Muffler is the newsletter of ICARE-- Intercounty Citizens Achieving Regional Excellence. Organizations are encouraged to reprint and distribute **The Muffler**. Our Website is:
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