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Racetrack noise has changed my life for the worse

After the racetrack opened, schedules had to be changed. There is no more sleeping in on the weekends. Windows cannot be opened on cool mornings. Peaceful morning walks, afternoons on the deck, not any more.

There are some days when the noise is a distant buzz. On more days than not, it is constant and loud: The roar of the engines and the yelling of the loudspeaker sound right next door, and it is non-stop for more than 10 hours a day.

We live next to the airport. There is noise. We hear takeoffs and landings, jet engines warming up and slowing down. This noise is loud, it is sometimes even deafening, but it is over in less than 10 minutes. You know it will end, and it does. It is bearable, and is even ignorable. I have never even thought to complain about the airport noise.

The difference with the racetrack is that the noise is constant. When it is a "loud day," there is no ending to the noise. Even after 7 p.m., the loudspeakers are still ongoing often until very late. At one Millville City Commission meeting, someone compared it to a lawn mower, as if that is nothing. Try listening to that sound for more than 10 hours straight. The city commissioners are happy the racetrack is here, because it will bring jobs and tourism. However, it has disrupted the way of life for many more people than it has benefited. It is creating noise pollution, lowering home values and creating stress and discomfort for the residents -- the people who bought homes, pay taxes and contribute to the community.

Residents pay more than their fair share in taxes to the city, and this does not even buy the commissioners support. It does buy empty promises, sound studies with unreasonable limits and a tax abatement for a playground for wealthy out-of-towners. Usually I look forward to the summer, but this year. I have ambivalence because it will bring the sounds of the crickets, but I won't be able to hear them over the roar of the engines.

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