

Firm agrees Motorsports Park has not violated noise ordinance

By JOEL LANDAU • Staff Writer • May 20, 2010

MILLVILLE -- A private firm has confirmed studies by the city and the New Jersey Motorsports Park that the facility has not violated the city's noise ordinance.

At Tuesday's City Commission meeting, Planning Director Kim Ayres presented a report by Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. in Burlington, Mass. The city hired the firm to review noise reports from city Zoning Officer Wayne Caregnato and by Shropshire and Associates in Lumberton who was hired by the park.

State law exempts racetracks from noise restrictions, but the city enacted a law that said noise from the park cannot exceed 80 decibels for 20 continuous minutes. Both reports said the park did not violate the ordinance in its first two years of operation, which the private firm confirmed.

Ayres said the company has researched issues of neighborhood reactions to noise and said complaints are expected when noise increases 5 to 10 decibels. Ayres said the report also stated the issue can be very emotional for some people and they may have a hard time blocking out the noise.

Public Works Director Dale Finch said the city has made progress in its negotiations with the park to change its Municipal Developers Agreement to allow construction of a motocross facility. The city asked the park to make concessions regarding noise.

Finch would not discuss the negotiations because they're ongoing.

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