



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER STEPHEN WHITBURN
THIRD DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Councilmember Stephen Whitburn Calls for Ban on Excessive Noise from
Pedicabs**

San Diego City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn today announced his plan to ban amplified music from pedicabs in response to numerous complaints that they are producing excessive noise.

“My office has received many complaints from residents that the noise from pedicabs is intolerable,” said Whitburn, who represents Council District 3 which includes Downtown where the pedicabs are concentrated. “We’ve also heard from businesses that the excessively loud music is disruptive. Even tourists staying at hotels have complained they couldn’t sleep because pedicabs were blaring loud music into the wee hours of the morning.”

“I will introduce an ordinance this spring to tighten existing regulations on pedicabs,” Whitburn said. “In addition to banning amplified music from pedicabs, the ordinance will also clamp down on price gouging and prioritize passenger safety. Many passengers have complained to us that they were charged much more than they were led to believe their ride would cost.”

At a Friday news conference, Whitburn was joined by Marco Li Mandri, Chief Executive Administrator of the Little Italy Association and Michael Trimble, Executive Director of the Gaslamp Quarter Association.

“I want to thank the Little Italy Association of San Diego, the Gaslamp Quarter Association, and San Diego County Lodging Association for their support and partnership in bringing this issue to the forefront on behalf of residents, visitors, and businesses in the downtown area,” Whitburn said.

“The Little Italy Association has increasingly become concerned about certain pedicab operators that are taking liberties to blast music throughout the community and especially around the Piazza della Famiglia, in our neighborhood,” said Marco Li Mandri, Chief Executive Administrator of the Little Italy Association of San Diego. “We fully support Councilmember Whitburn’s efforts to regulate pedicabs, which provide a valuable mobility service, to ban unregulated boom boxes and loud music.”

“We must empower our law enforcement agencies with the tools they need to enforce the ordinances limiting sound levels on Pedi Cabs,” said Michael Trimble, Executive Director, Gaslamp Quarter Association. “If these operators violate the established rules, they should face the same consequences as our brick-and-mortar businesses. It is time to level the playing field and ensure that everyone abides by the same standards.”

“While we recognize the benefit of providing additional transportation options for San Diego residents and visitors, our members in the lodging and hospitality industry have fielded numerous complaints concerning the unregulated operation of pedicabs,” said Fred Tayco, Executive Director of the San Diego County Lodging Association. “We believe that this proposal can be a win-win for everybody involved. If handled properly, this proposal will preserve a convenient and entertaining alternative form of transportation for visitors enjoying all that San Diego has to offer.”

Councilmember Whitburn is currently inviting public input on his proposed ordinance.

He plans to introduce it this spring at a meeting of the city council’s Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which he chairs.

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