

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015

WORKSHOP, 5:00 P.M.  
CITY AUDITORIUM  
250 N. 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

*To become the most livable community west of the Rockies by 2025*

1. **Broadband**

[\*\*Attachment\*\*](#)  
[Supplemental Documents](#)

2. **Museum Projects, Use of Trust Funds**

[Supplemental Documents](#)

3. **Grand Junction Rockies Fireworks**

[\*\*Attachment\*\*](#)  
[Supplemental Documents](#)

4. **Legislative Update**

5. **Other Business**

6. **Board Reports**

## Questions for the January 19, 2015 City of Grand Junction Council Workshop

1) Please provide a high level overview of your plans to improve broadband Internet service to the Grand Junction business users over the next two to five years. What is your current standard business package (speed and cost)? What plans do you have to provide standard 100 Mbps? 1 Gbps? Can you provide an estimate on when the higher speed services might be available and what their cost might be?

2) We frequently hear from Grand Junction business and residential users that high speed broadband Internet service (speeds greater than 30 Mbps) either costs too much or is unavailable. Please provide information to help us understand what service is currently available to businesses and residences and show how comparable local prices are to communities in and around the Denver area.

3) We are competing with communities across Colorado and around the nation to attract Economic Development. According to news sources, many communities have plans or projects underway to boost their broadband Internet service speeds to 1 Gbps at prices around \$100 or less. Please provide information about your plans to help business in Grand Junction not get left behind.

4) How can the City of Grand Junction encourage development of high speed broadband Internet service for the businesses and residents of the City? Are there systematic issues that are currently inhibiting the development of high speed broadband in Grand Junction? Are there any permitting or site development requirements that could be improved from your perspective?



Date: January 15, 2015  
Author: Rob Schoeber  
Title/ Phone Ext: Parks & Recreation Director Ext. 3881  
Proposed Meeting Date:  
January 19, 2015

## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT WORKSHOP SESSION**

**Topic:** Fireworks – Suplizio Field

**Staff (Name & Title):** Rob Schoeber, Parks & Recreation Director

### **Summary:**

Discussion regarding Fireworks displays that are scheduled at Suplizio Field in conjunction with regularly scheduled baseball games. The intention of this discussion is to present the history of these events and determine any parameters that may be enacted for the upcoming season. Following this discussion, the Rockies will submit a formal request to be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda.

### **Background, Analysis and Options:**

During the past two seasons, the Grand Junction Rockies have promoted special Fireworks nights as part of their regular season schedule. Friday night games have been designated as fireworks games, and dependent upon the home schedule, fireworks have also been offered on July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day weekend.

Last year, concerns were received by the Parks Department, Police Department and the City Council. The issues raised included the late night noise and the frequency of the fireworks shows.

The Grand Junction Rockies have made modifications to their event in hopes of minimizing the above concerns. Friday night games have been re-scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and the shows have been altered to include fewer loud firing 'reports'. The average length of games in 2014 was 3:01. The average game attendance in 2014 was 2,200, while the average on Friday nights increased to 3,598.

### **Board or Committee Recommendation:**

This item has not been heard by an advisory board or committee.

### **Financial Impact/Budget:**

There is no direct cost to the City. Increased Rockies ticket sales create additional revenue for the City.

**Legal issues:**

There are no legal issues.

**Other issues:**

No other issues have been identified.

**Previously presented or discussed:**

The last request by the Rockies was made in the Spring of 2014.

**Attachments:**

None



Responses to Questions for the January 19, 2015 City of Grand Junction Council Workshop

**Please provide a high level overview of your plans to improve broadband Internet service to the Grand Junction business users over the next two to five years.**

*Charter Business has been improving our Internet service offerings to businesses in Grand Junction and we plan to continue to improve those offerings in the future to maintain the leadership position in high speed broadband. Very soon, Charter Business customers using our current 30 Mbps x 4 Mbps service will see their Internet download speeds increase up to 60 Mbps as our standard offering. Near-term plans are to add an option to increase the Internet download speed up to 100 Mbps for businesses.*

*Charter has an extensive fiber network in Grand Junction and also offers direct Fiber Internet services to Grand Junction businesses today. As our fiber network has grown in recent years, we are now within reach of most businesses in the city to provide Fiber Internet connections up to 10 Gbps. Charter Business is in the process of directly contacting businesses in the city to make them aware of our current offers.*

*Additionally, Charter is actively engaged in opening a new 85,000 square foot facility in Colorado that will house an expanded state-of-the-art laboratory to further develop technological innovation for future offerings.*

**What is your current standard business package (speed and cost)?**

*Our Essentials30 business package provides up to 30 Mbps download x 4 Mbps upload for \$65 monthly with an option to reduce that cost to \$54.95 if bundled with Charter Business Phone or Charter Business TV.*

**What plans do you have to provide standard 100 Mbps? 1 Gbs?**

*Charter has recently made a residential 100 Mbps Internet service option available in Grand Junction. A similar 100 Mbps option will soon be available to businesses in the city. As technology advances, further improvements may become available. Fiber Internet is available today with up to 10 Gbps bandwidth options.*

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**Can you provide an estimate on when the higher speed services might be available and what their cost might be?**

*The increase to 60 Mbps has recently been introduced for Grand Junction residential customers at the same residential price. The increase to 60 Mbps for businesses is planned to occur within 60 days and is planned to be offered at the current business price.*

**We frequently hear from Grand Junction business and residential users that high speed broadband Internet service (speeds greater than 30 Mbs) either costs too much or is unavailable.**

*60 Mbps service is now being provided to city residential subscribers at the same price that these customers had been paying for 30 Mbps service. A 100 Mbps option, known as Ultra100, is now available to residents for an additional \$60 monthly plus a \$200 installation charge. The increase to 60 Mbps for businesses is planned to occur within 60 days.*

**Please provide information to help us understand what service is currently available to businesses and residences and show how comparable local prices are to communities in and around the Denver area.**

*As of January 16<sup>th</sup>, Comcast's website advertised 16 Mbps x 3 Mbps business Internet for \$69.95 and 50 Mbps x 10 Mbps business Internet service at \$109.95. Its top Internet service of 150 Mbps x 20 Mbps was offered at \$249.95.*

**We are competing with communities across Colorado and around the nation to attract Economic Development. According to news sources, many communities have plans or projects underway to boost their broadband Internet service speeds to 1 Gbs at prices around \$100 or less.**

*We are not aware of other communities in Colorado with the offer described. Charter is committed to continuing to bring competitive offers to Grand Junction as we recognize everyone can benefit from economic development. Our competitive research indicates \$100 for 1 Gbps speed Internet is not a national average. Although we are aware Google has offered this service in a few select communities to date, we understand that as of 2014, Google has stopped the build of its fiber networks.*

**Please provide information about your plans to help business in Grand Junction not get left behind.**

*Charter is committed to continue to bring competitive offers to Grand Junction so that businesses can leverage the power of the Internet to efficiently grow their businesses. We continually assess customer demand for higher speed Internet and data networking services to ensure future investments are allocated to satisfy customer requirements. As a 38-year resident of Grand Junction (and former Council member), Doug Thomason notes that, "we've always accepted the fact that we weren't Denver (or any other nearby "big city") and never really aspired to be. The quality of life offered here is the tradeoff for some of the amenities that other communities enjoy and expect. During Comprehensive Plan discussions as well as revising the City's mission statements, that sentiment was*

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*echoed throughout. I know and realize that attracting business is a priority, but Internet speed is not a factor in losing any recruitment efforts.”*

**How can the City of Grand Junction encourage development of high speed broadband Internet service for the businesses and residents of the City?**

*Since 2012, Charter has invested \$33.7 million into the areas acquired within Colorado from Optimum West. The last mile is typically the most expensive for providers and for businesses. Grants, tax relief or other mechanisms to help the businesses obtain services to that last mile would improve broadband costs and serviceability to those businesses.*

**Are there systematic issues that are currently inhibiting the development of high speed broadband in Grand Junction?**

*By introducing the recent improvements to Charter’s offerings described earlier, we have demonstrated that advances in broadband offerings are being made available today. As the community continues to grow, Charter is committed to making competitive offers available to the city’s businesses and residents to maintain our leadership in high speed Internet availability.*

**Are there any permitting or site development requirements that could be improved from your perspective?**

*Continued notifications of trench openings are extremely valuable. Today Grand Junction does a very good job in working with Charter on permitting requirements.*





## Broadband Facts

[Source: Internet Innovation Alliance]

### Demographics

- 70% of Americans have broadband connections at home, as of Sept. 2013, up from just 3% as of June 2000.
- 81%, the highest percentage of all adults who use high speed internet at home, are in the 18-29 age group; 90% have college+ education; 91% have incomes of \$75,000+.
- Of the 15% of American adults who do not use the internet, the least likely to use are senior citizens, adults with less than a high school education and those living in households earning less than \$30,000 per year.

### Technology Statistics

- Laptop and mobile wireless account for the vast majority of wireless access, as 51% of Americans get online using either of these two methods.
- iPhone sales outpace the human population.
- Smartphone ownership is highest among the 25-34 age group demographic.
- One billion consumers will own smartphones by 2016.

### Internet Usage Statistics

- Internet traffic increased 400% from 2007 to 2012, reaching 12,000 gigabits/second in 2012, which is the equivalent of 36 billion DVDs per year.
- Traffic is projected to increase by another 300% through 2017.
- By 2015, video will account for half of all mobile broadband traffic and 53% by 2017. This is up from a third in 2009.
- Netflix and YouTube account for most of the growth in Internet traffic, with both accounting for nearly 50% downstream traffic on fixed networks.





- 40% of broadband users in the 18-29 age group are heavy internet users, accounting for 80% of the video streaming minutes per month.
- Each day:
  - 294 billion e-mails are sent.
  - 4.7 billion minutes are spent on Facebook.
  - 22 million hours of old TV shows and movies are watched on Netflix.
  - 250 million photos are uploaded to Facebook.
  - 532 million Facebook statuses are updated.
  - 18.7 million hours of music streamed on Pandora.
  - 864,000 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube.



## Broadband Workshop – Jan. 19, 2015

### Question 1

Please provide a high level overview of your plans to improve broadband Internet service to Grand Junction business users over the next two to five years. What is your current standard business package (speed and cost)? What plans do you have to provide standard 100 Mbps? 1 Gbs? Can you provide an estimate on when the higher speed services might be available and what their cost might be?

#### CenturyLink Response

CenturyLink offers broadband speeds up to 100 Mbps for business customers in Grand Junction. Current speed availability and pricing information is available on our website at [centurylink.com/business](http://centurylink.com/business), as well as information on how to speak with a representative who can address additional questions or concerns.

CenturyLink invests hundreds of millions of dollars a year to bring high-speed broadband to millions of Americans. Consumers benefit from this investment and from marketplace competition. We will monitor and evaluate our current 100 Mbps and 1 Gigabit service deployments before determining further deployment of this advanced technology. Our evaluation considers such factors as positive community support, competitive parity in the marketplace and the ability to earn a reasonable return on our investment.

### Question 2

We frequently hear from Grand Junction business and residential users that high speed broadband Internet service (speeds greater than 30 Mbps) either costs too much or is unavailable. Please provide information to help us understand what service is currently available to businesses and residences and show how comparable local prices are to communities in and around the Denver area.

#### CenturyLink Response



CenturyLink uses a standard pricing model for our broadband, voice and data-hosting services to ensure comparable pricing across our footprint. **Speeds up to 40 Mbps are currently available to residential customers in Grand Junction starting at \$29.95 a month.** CenturyLink encourages businesses to contact a CenturyLink representative or visit our website, [centurylink.com/business](http://centurylink.com/business), for specific pricing, term commitment and location information.

### **Question 3**

We are competing with communities across Colorado and around the nation to attract Economic Development. According to news sources, many communities have plans or projects underway to boost their broadband Internet service speeds to 1 Gbps at prices around \$100 or less. Please provide information about your plans to help businesses in Grand Junction not get left behind.

#### **CenturyLink Response**

CenturyLink is most interested in partnering with municipalities that demonstrate a willingness to cooperate in the fiber deployment process and will consider expansion in areas where we receive positive community support, competitive parity in the marketplace and the ability to earn a reasonable return on our investment.

We are in a dynamic and rapidly changing telecommunications environment that will continue to provide creative and unique partnership opportunities for providers and consumers. We believe the majority of municipalities understand the challenges and costs of operating high-speed networks long term. As a result, many are looking for efficient solutions that will benefit consumers and lower the costs of obtaining rights of way and deploying networks at the local level.

We are continuing to assess the feasibility of expanding or enhancing our broadband capabilities, and would expect to continue to make investments where economically feasible. Additionally, we are expanding our broadband service reach to underserved areas in our footprint by leveraging the FCC's Connect America Funds (CAF).



#### Question 4

How can the City of Grand Junction encourage development of high-speed broadband Internet service for the businesses and residents of the City? Are there systematic issues that are currently inhibiting the development of high speed broadband in Grand Junction? Are there any permitting or site development requirements that could be improved from your perspective?

#### CenturyLink Response

The City's range of options to incentivize the increased offering and utilization of communications services derive from four distinct potential roles:

1. The City as a **broadband user** provides the City with the ability to aggregate and leverage demand of communications services to attract additional private investment;
2. The City as a **regulator** has the ability to enact or reform local regulations that influence private-enterprise activities, including "rights-of-way, utility pole attachments, construction codes, cable franchise agreements, and others;"
3. The City as a **financier** can provide various subsidies to investor-owned service providers to reduce the cost of network build-outs as well as subsidize end-users and community groups to drive increased demand; and
4. The City even as an **infrastructure developer** can take a measured approach to providing the network elements necessary to provide communications services.

**As the City takes on the roles of financier and infrastructure developer**, it begins to assume increased financial risk and to jeopardize other public policy goals including long-term innovation, free speech, and privacy.

**As a broadband user**, the City should drive increased demand by leading through example and developing and adopting broadband applications that increase productivity and allow residents to more easily interact with the City government. The Internet should be the first resource residents turn to when they are seeking information from the City or transacting business with the City, whether researching local crime statistics or paying their electric bill. Residents and the City can benefit from the City's increased adoption of broadband applications that enable improved productivity of residents, greater transparency of local government, and increased efficiency in providing City services as well as driving



increased demand for broadband service.

**As a regulator**, the City should revisit and reform where necessary the local regulations that influence the deployment of investor-owned broadband networks. This should include revisiting the regulatory treatment of once disparate service providers that now offer converged and competitive service offerings. The City should reevaluate its regulations to ensure parity in terms of taxation, franchising, or reporting requirements of the various service providers to minimize potential market distortions. Furthermore, the City should reevaluate its permitting process for the use of public property in broadband deployments, including public rights of way and antenna attachments. The City should seek to shorten the application process and potentially consider lower fees or providing alternative fee arrangements. Providing regulatory parity and reducing the regulatory hurdles will facilitate increased build-outs of investor-owned networks.

**As a financier**, the City could provide direct financial assistance to residents, community groups, or service providers to increase the use of broadband technologies. For service providers, the City could offer grants, loans, or tax incentives to decrease the direct cost of broadband network build-outs. In addition, the City may also consider offering service providers one-time waivers for rights of way or licensing fees. For residents, the City may also consider offering grants or tax incentives for computer purchases to increase broadband demand. To further drive broadband demand, the City may also look to fund digital literacy and other educational programs offered through local community groups.

**As an infrastructure developer**, the City may take on a wide range of responsibilities in deploying the infrastructure necessary to provide Communications Services. For instance, the City may look to install and own the necessary ducts and conduit to facilitate the deployment of fiber to the premise.

#### **About CenturyLink**

CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States and is recognized as a leader in the network services market by technology industry analyst firms. The company is a global leader in cloud infrastructure and hosted IT solutions for enterprise customers. CenturyLink provides data, voice and managed services in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers for businesses and consumers. The company also offers advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink® Prism™ TV and DIRECTV brands. Headquartered in Monroe, La., CenturyLink is an S&P 500 company and is included among the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. For more information, visit [www.centurylink.com](http://www.centurylink.com).





## Museum of Western Colorado's Prioritized List of Capital Expenses for FY 2015

### Cost Estimate Summary:

The Museum of Western Colorado is requesting the use of the J. Heywood Jones Estate that was left to the City of Grand Junction on behalf of the Museum of Western Colorado.

(Note: A complete explanation of each of the following costs is provided in detail on the following pages.)

#### *Whitman Educational Center*

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Replace &/or Upgrade Furnaces & Obsolete HVAC System         | \$35,109.65 |
| 2. Roof Repair, Install New Roof Rubber Membranes               | \$19,000    |
| 3. Replace Front Gutters  | \$5,000     |
| 4. Installation of Wireless Capacity                            | \$1,200     |
| 5. Whitman East Wing Refurbished (Paint, Picture Mounted, etc.) | \$1,500     |

Sub -Total \$63,809.65

#### *Museum of the West*

- |                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Replace HVAC Compressor           | \$5,924.77 |
| 2. Installation of Wireless Capacity | \$3,475    |
| 3. Upgrading of Computer Capacity    | \$6,000    |

Sub -Total \$15,399.77

5% contingency	\$3,860.47
<b>Total Deferred Maintenance and Repair</b>	<b>\$81,069.89</b>

## Capital Request Explanations:

### *Whitman Educational Center*

1. **Replace and Upgrade furnaces and obsolete HVAC system** **\$35,109.65**
  - Besides the MWC, the Whitman Educational Center is used by a number of community organizations, non-profit groups, government agencies, and paid rentals. The furnaces in that building were installed when the Museum first moved into the building in the mid-1960s, almost a half a century ago. These heating/cooling systems are extremely inefficient, expensive to operate, provide very little heat and are very noisy. The building is often too cold for programming and rentals (in the winter) and when the system is operating, it is too loud to hear speakers and presentations. Replacing and upgrading furnaces will reduce utility costs and provide for a comfortable environment for rentals and public programming. The current HVAC system is dated and a detriment to using Whitman as a meeting facility. An upgraded system in the East Wing will bring a constant heating and air-conditioning level to the much used lecture hall. This will help make the space more conducive to rentals and will be less expensive to run than the current system.
  
2. **Roof Repair, Install New Roof Rubber Membranes** **\$19,000**
  - The Whitman School building was constructed in 1926. In 1965, when the Museum of Western Colorado moved in, it was remodeled. The roof on Whitman Building's East Wing is quite old and requires replacement. Water has found its way into the building through the roof and has caused water damage throughout the entire East Wing. Current repair work is costly and does not address the source of the problem. Continued water damage could affect future utilization of the building.
  
3. **Replace Front Gutters** **\$5,000**
  - Rainwater is beginning to damage the front sidewalk of the Whitman Building due to faulty gutters. The gutters need to be historically accurate to the rest of the building and will prevent future water damage.
  
4. **Installation of Wireless Capacity** **\$1,200**
  - The Whitman Educational Building is currently without wireless access. This has handicapped the use of the Museum by renters, many of which require this amenity. This reduces the Whitman Center's utilization by community organizations and as a revenue stream for the MWC. The purchase of a used router and switch will result in some cost saving costs.
  
5. **Whitman East Wing Refurbished (Paint, Picture Mounted, etc.)** **\$1,500**
  - To improve the utilization of the Whitman Building's East Wing by community groups, the MWC wishes to improve its attractiveness. This includes freshly painting the room and the installation of historical photographs from Grand Junction's past.



***Museum of the West***

**1. Replace HVAC Compressor**

**\$5,924.77**

- The mission of the Museum of Western Colorado is to collect and preserve the region's cultural history. Without proper environmental controls, the thousands of artifacts and photographs in the Museum's collection are in danger of irreparable damage. A constant temperature (ideally 68 degrees) and relative humidity (20%) are vital to keeping the collections in a preserved state. Changes in temperature and humidity levels add stress to wood and metal artifacts as well as inks on photographs. Without a proper HVAC system, the Museum cannot complete its mission and will leave thousands of priceless objects to slowly deteriorate. These objects and photographs tell the story of our community and our area and are the life-blood of the organization. In addition, lack of a fully working HVAC system will hurt the Museum's efforts in achieving its sixth straight accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums; a distinction of excellence that the entire community takes pride in. Any interruption of the climate controlled environment will prove very detrimental to the collection (not to mention a significant impact of the popularity of the Museum as a tourist attraction and educational facility).

**2. Installation of Wireless Capacity**

**\$3,475**

- The Museum of the West currently is without wireless access. This has handicapped the use of the Museum by visitors as well as handicapped volunteer and staff productivity. Installing wireless in the Museum of the West requires the installation of Cat 5 cable at 5 locations in the building to make the system workable. The purchase of a used router and switch will result in some cost saving costs.

**3. Upgrading the Museum Computer Capacity**

**\$6,000**

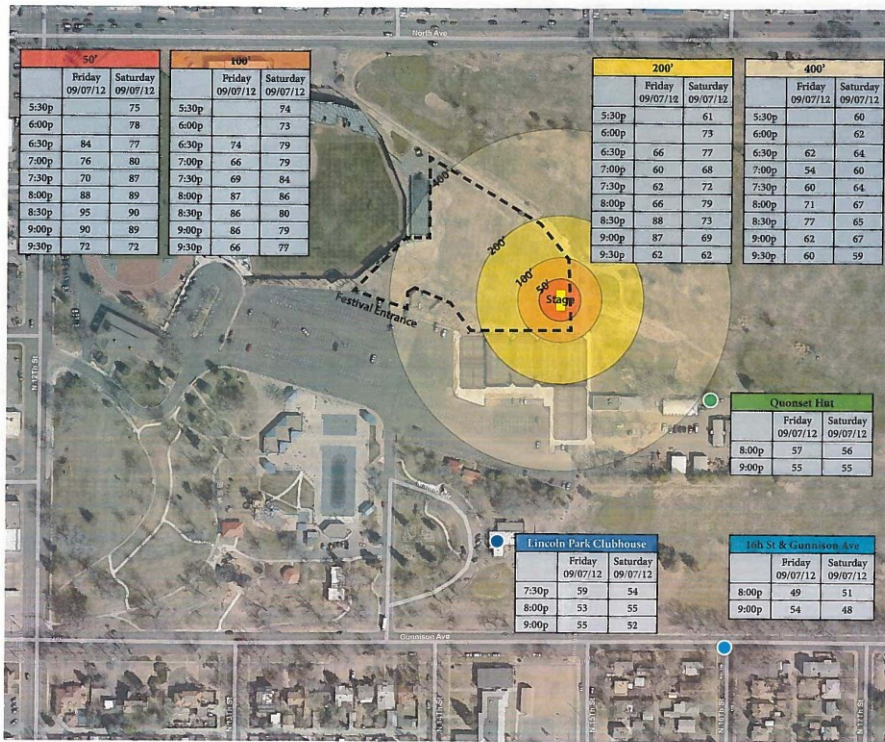
- The MWC computer system runs on Windows XP. Now that this operating system is no longer serviced by Windows, the Museum is vulnerable to cyber-crime, not to mention the need for increased productivity. In addition, many of the Museum's workstations are rather old (some are pre-2008) and desperately need to be replaced. This part of the project will require upgrading some computers to Windows 8.1 and replacing others that will not be able to use Windows 8.1. The cost of this project is an estimate based on replacing around eight computers, upgrading the operating platform on five others, and installation.

5% contingency

\$3,860.47

**Total Maintenance and Repair**

**\$81,069.89**



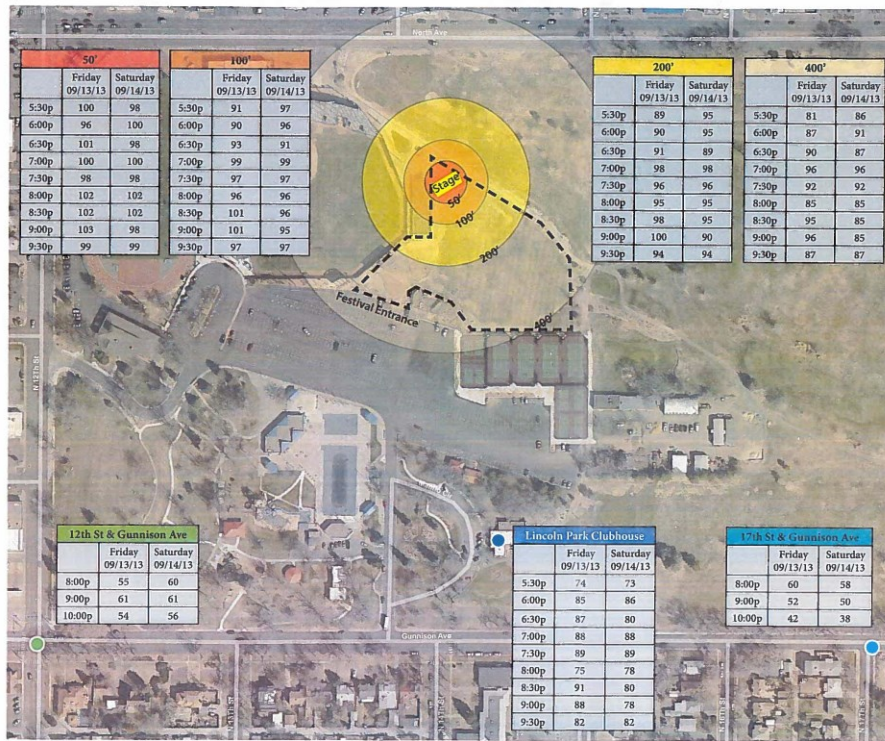
## PORK N HOPS 2012 dB Levels

Permissible Exposure Before Hearing Damage Occurs	
Continuous dB	Permissible Exposure Time
85	8 Hours
88	4 Hours
91	2 Hours
94	1 Hour
97	30 Minutes
100	15 Minutes
103	7.5 Minutes
106	4 Minutes
109	2 Minutes
112	1 Minute
115	30 Seconds

Common Noise Source dB Levels	
Jet aircraft at take-off	180
Fireworks	140
Snowmobile	120
Chain Saw	110
Amplified Music	110
Lawn Mower	90
Noisy Office	90
Vacuum Cleaner	80
City Traffic	80
Normal Conversation	60
Refrigerator Humming	40
Whisper	20
Leaves Rustling	10
Calm Breathing	10

**Grand Junction**  
COLORADO  
PARKS & RECREATION

● = Reading Location  
*Note: Readings taken at set distances of 50', 100', 200', 400' were taken directly in front of the stage*



## PORK N HOPS 2013 dB Levels

Permissible Exposure Before Hearing Damage Occurs	
Continuous dB	Permissible Exposure Time
85	8 Hours
88	4 Hours
91	2 Hours
94	1 Hour
97	30 Minutes
100	15 Minutes
103	7.5 Minutes
106	4 Minutes
109	2 Minutes
112	1 Minute
115	30 Seconds

Common Noise Source dB Levels	
Jet aircraft at take-off	180
Fireworks	140
Snowmobile	120
Chain Saw	110
Amplified Music	110
Lawn Mower	90
Noisy Office	90
Vacuum Cleaner	80
City Traffic	80
Normal Conversation	60
Refrigerator Humming	40
Whisper	20
Leaves Rustling	10
Calm Breathing	10

**Grand Junction**  
COLORADO  
PARKS & RECREATION

● = Reading Location  
*Note: Readings taken at set distances of 50', 100', 200', 400' were taken directly in front of the stage*