

# Sound Study Peer Review Related to The Carillon Hotel Trellis Bar 6801 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, Florida

### **Prepared for:**

Miami Beach Planning Department 1700 Convention Center Drive Miami Beach, Florida 33139

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#### **1 Introduction**

This report documents a peer review of a report prepared for the City of Miami Beach related to a proposed outdoor bar counter (The Trellis Bar) at the Carillon Hotel at 6801 Collins Avenue. The reviewed report, prepared by Brooks Acoustics Corporation and dated December 23, 2016, discusses in detail the results of an ambient noise survey made at the site, proposed mitigation strategies, and predicted resulting sound levels at the nearest condominium units within the development.

#### 2 Project Description

The proposed bar counter is to be located at the rear of the property located at 6801 Collins Avenue, adjacent to the pool deck. The area is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by the pool and 23-story Carillon south tower, on the east by a two to three story building which appears to be parking, and on the north by the 16-story Carillon north tower which includes condominium units on floors 11 through 16.

The application which is the subject of this study addresses a desire to operate and utilize this outdoor bar counter between 8 pm and midnight. The most adjacent receptor properties of interest identified in this report are at the condominium units at the top floors directly above the bar, the nearest being approximately 97.7 feet above the bar area.

The report describes two sound management strategies to address potential noise issues. The first involves utilizing a limiter on the installed sound system to limit the sound levels emitted by the ambient house system to 60 dBA (presumed to be at a distance of 10 feet from the source). The second involves the installation of a retractable acoustic awning which would nominally provide an 18-decibel sound level reduction.

#### 3 Comments

The analysis methodology used to assess potential impact of the bar counter upon the nearest condominium unit was valid and provides the basis for valid conclusions regarding potential impact. As such, we agree with the assessment that, "with a reasonable degree of engineering certainty the proposed Trellis Bar will have no negative impact" on the subject condominium units, contingent on the following assumptions:

- Source sound levels of 75 dBA for general patron noise and 60 dBA for ambient sound from the installed sound system are in terms of sound pressure level with a reference distance of 10'. Only with this reference distance will the assertion of a 20 decibel reduction be commensurate with a distance of 97.7 feet. If the reference distance is greater, then the sound level reduction would be less and the resulting sound levels at the condominium would be greater.
- There will be no live music acts or DJs who would utilize their own audio systems which may produce levels in excess of those prescribed herein.
- The installed sound system will not produce significant low frequency energy.
  While the dBA metric is valid for many environmental assessments, it is not an apt descriptor for sounds containing significant low-frequency energy. In entertainment applications, it is typically such low-frequency sound which causes issues.

### **4 Conclusions**

In summary, we believe that the analysis procedure undertaken to assess potential impact represents a valid approach. Furthermore, contingent on the points made herein, we agree that sound from the Trellis Bar should have minimal impact on residents in condominiums on floors 11 through 16.