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Dear Prairie Elementary School concerned residents:

Thank you for contacting the Village regarding your noise concerns surrounding a neighbor dispute at Prairie Elementary School. I personally have been mediating between the two parties in this dispute - School District 135 ("D135") personnel and a property owner on Streamstown Court ("Streamstown Court Property Owner"). Progress is being made in this dispute, and hopefully a permanent solution can be achieved in the very near future.

As reference, below are some key facts in this matter:

- In 2020, D135 relocated and replaced its playground at Prairie Elementary School with an interactive playground. This interactive playground included elements that allowed children to play musical instruments. The new playground was installed adjacent to the Streamstown Court Property Owner. To the best of our knowledge, neighbor feedback was not solicited during this project.
- At the time, the Streamstown Court Property Owner expressed concerns to D135 regarding the noise generated by the musical elements indicating that the noise was interfering with their quality of life.
- During the past few weeks, having not been able to convince D135 to remove the musical instruments during the past two years, the Streamstown Court Property Owner began playing loud music in an attempt to get D135 to remove the musical instruments from the playground. The loud music has included songs with vulgar content and language that is clearly not suitable for children.
- During the past week, D135 has removed the musical instruments elements (except for a bell), but the base structures still remain.

Prior to this mediation, the Orland Park Police Department ("OPPD") has been called to the area on a number of occasions. For each noise complaint call, the OPPD tested the noise level, using a noise meter, to determine if the noise emanating from the Streamstown Court Property Owner was in excess of what is allowed by Village Code. Each time the OPPD tested the noise level, the noise registered below the Village Code limits.

With regard to the relocation of the playground equipment, in Illinois, public education is the state's constitutional responsibility. The state delegates to local school boards the authority to govern school districts within the parameters set by state law. One of the duties of the Board of Education is providing and maintaining school buildings/property. There is no statutory or constitutional authority given to the Village of Orland Park to regulate the placement of playground equipment and/or its use at Prairie Elementary School or to require that the Board of Education take any specific action with respect to the same.

Orland Park is an incredible community and seldom do neighbor disputes get to the level where the police must intervene. We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbors, but in most cases simply talking peacefully to

one another is the best way to solve a problem. However, in this Prairie Elementary School noise dispute, dialogue has not produced positive results.

However, as I mentioned earlier, I am personally mediating this dispute, and I believe that a win-win resolution is within reach. The Streamstown Court Property Owner has, for now, ceased playing the loud music while D135 mulls a proposed compromise resolution. A decision on this compromise is expected to be forthcoming.

I want to again thank you for contacting the Village. The mission of the Village is to enhance the quality of life to those who live in, work in, and visit Orland Park to the extent allowed by law, and I am hopeful as all of you are, that a permanent solution to this dispute can be achieved in the very near future.

Very Respectfully,

Eric Rossi
Chief of Police