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Brass band jam session outside Jazz Fest stopped by police — but band then plays on at nearby home

BY SUE STRACHAN | sstrachan@theadvocate.com APR 27, 2019 - 10:51 AM



The 100 Brass Band performs in the front yard of Debbie Lindsey and Philippe LaMancusa after being asked to stop playing in the street by New Orleans police.

Staff photo by Sue Strachan

LATEST: NOPD explains why it shut down brass band near Jazz Fest, says band was not in violation

ORIGINAL STORY

A brass band serenading crowds outside the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on North Lopez Street was shut down by New Orleans police Friday evening but was allowed to finish its set on private property.

Debbie Lindsey and Philipe LaMancusa were sitting on their porch with friends enjoying the music of the 100 Brass Band at 7 p.m. when New Orleans Police Department officers stopped and told the band that it had to quit playing.

The couple's house, located a block from Liuzza's by the Track, is well situated to watch departing Jazz Festers making their way to either a party at Liuzza's or to other spots when the festival ends each day about 7 p.m.

Most people walking by the brass band stopped to listen or dance, but the police asked the band to stop playing, citing a lack of a permit and complaints from neighbors.

Impromptu music performances and vendors selling food, water and other wares outside of the Fair Grounds during and after Jazz Fest each day are long-standing traditions. The

party on the block next to Liuzza's by the Track has been happening for about 20 years, neighbors said.

An NOPD spokesman asked about the incident Saturday didn't have an immediate explanation for why the band was told to stop performing.

The City of New Orleans' Twitter account weighed in on the matter Saturday afternoon, supporting the NOPD's response to resident complaints and working with the musicians and residents to allow them to continue playing elsewhere.

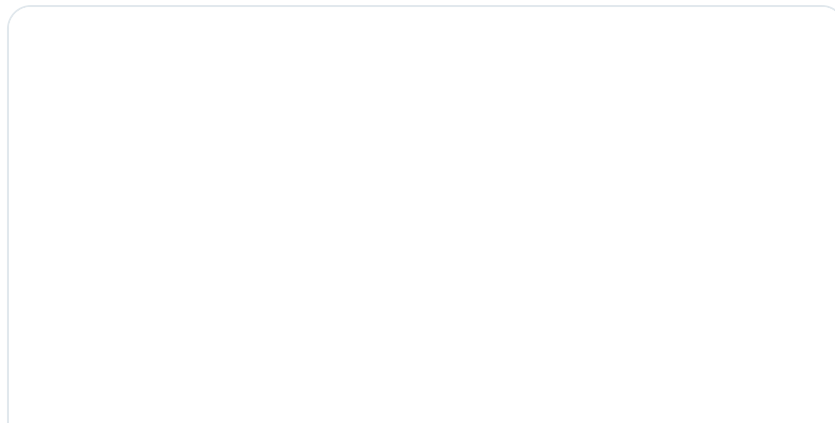
"#NewOrleans will always continue to support our culture & seeks ways to balance our traditions & neighbors," the city account said.

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**The City Of New Orleans**

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.@NOPDnews responded to resident complaints. We support #NOPD decision to work with both the musicians & the residents to let the musicians continue in a new location. #NewOrleans will always continue to support our culture & seeks ways to balance our traditions & neighbors.

1 2:38 PM - Apr 27, 2019

[See The City Of New Orleans's other Tweets](#)

Lindsey said officers were respectful in shutting down the brass band. But, sensing disappointment all around, Lindsey and LaMancusa decided to intervene.

“Can they play in our yard?” Lindsey asked the officer. He said no, they needed a permit. But after the officer went to check, he came back and gave her the OK.

"We thank the police who used common sense to defuse this situation by allowing them to play in our yard," Lindsey said.

The 100 Brass Band reassembled in the couple's front yard, and a street party with dancing ensued until about 8 p.m.

“It was the best party we ‘never’ planned!” said
Lindsey.

*Information from special contributor Katy
Reckdahl was used in this report.*

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