



NOISE MONITORING SUMMARY  
FOR  
MERRIWEATHER POST PAVILION  
SUMMER 2025

By

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# Noise Monitoring Year End Report 2025

## INTRODUCTION

This annual noise monitoring summary report is a detailed review of the sound readings conducted during the Summer 2025 concert season for Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP) as well as an assessment of the noise enforcement monitoring being carried out. This report provides some general reading data statistics and an overall comparison of the readings conducted at routine community testing locations. Each informational graph identifies the recorded sound readings during a concert event, including concert music / performances as well as ambient sounds. In addition, it is important to recognize that sound recordings are typically completed over a continuous three (3) minute interval. There are set sound limits based on the location of the community (routine) testing sites in relation to the distance from the MPP main stage. The allowable limits at each routine sound monitoring location are used as a base to determine if a violation is or has occurred. If a complaint is received during the routine monitoring, the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) notifies the Health Dept (HD) staff onsite for the concert. Whenever possible, the HD follows up with a sound reading at or near the site in which the complaint was reported and follows up with the complainant if contact information is available.

## PURPOSE & REGULATIONS

- A. Howard County Noise Control Outdoor Concert Venues (House Bill 677); Ho. Co. 18-17
  - a. This legislation clarifies the limitations concerning the electronic amplification of sound at an outdoor concert venue within Howard County. The points from which certain measurements should be taken concerning the electronic amplification of sound from the venue even if a satellite stage is being used are specified.
- B. Howard County Code: Subtitle 9 – Noise, Subsection 8.900: Noise Affecting Residential Areas
  - a. Noise Standards for Residential Areas as Receiving Property
    - i. Except as provided in paragraph (2) and in subsection (d) of the referenced code, a person may not cause or permit noise levels emanating from any property, such that the levels received on residential property exceed specific allowable levels.

## ROLE OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT (HCHD)

The HCHD strives to make Howard County a community in which health equity and optimal wellness are accessible for all who live, work and visit. The HCHD Noise Monitor / OSH Compliance Officer and other HCHD staff use the BSWA Sound Level Meter for MPP sound monitoring activities. While this sound meter records sound for both the A-weight and C-weight, all allowable limits shown are based on standards set for the A-weight reading only.

In addition to conducting sound readings and responding to residential complaints, the HCHD staff works in conjunction with MPP management to maintain proper noise levels during concert events. This includes notifying the venue staff when readings may show levels that are close to the allowable limits. The HCHD uses prior monitoring history of complaints, concert music type and anticipated attendance size to determine when to monitor a scheduled event. Part of the duty of the noise monitoring conducted by HCHD is to delineate ambient sounds that can interfere with the sound recordings. These ambient sounds may show data that is above the allowable limits. This delineation is important since violations are measured based on amplified music. Therefore, any potential interference from ambient noises that show data above allowable limits must be considered in assessing readings above the allowable limits.

During monitored concerts, HCHD staff stay in the area for the duration of the performances to be ready for any complaints that may be called into the HCPD during the concert. When contacted by police dispatch regarding a MPP noise complaint, the HCHD needs to receive the complainant's name, address, and phone number along with the time of the call. The HCHD will make every effort to travel to the complainant's address and conduct a recording from the property line. Recordings for noise complaints are conducted in the same manner when at the five (5) HCHD routine monitoring locations. The HCHD will observe and document all noises during the complaint recording. Once recording is complete, HCHD will make every effort to contact the complainant and share general results observed from the recording period.

## TESTING METHOD

### A. Equipment:

Cirrus CR:514 – High performance acoustic calibrators designed for the field and laboratory calibration of sound level meters and other noise measurement equipment. These devices are used to measure the calibration of the sound meter prior to doing noise monitoring for an event. The units meet the requirements of IEC 60942:2003 standard for Acoustic Calibrators with performance to Class 2 (CR:514) and Class 1 (CR:515).



BSWA Sound Level Meter (Class 1) – Sound level meter used to measure frequency weighting A, B, C and Z. The measurement period for sound readings is defined by users with integrals up to 24 hours. Application of the sound level meter includes basic noise measurement and environmental noise assessment.



## SITE LOCATIONS:

There are five (5) routine site locations identified for the noise level measurement during concert events at MPP. These locations are Town Center Library (10375 Little Patuxent Parkway), Juniper (6000 Merriweather Drive), College Square (10396 College Square), Vantage Point (End of Vantage Point Road, near circle round-about), and Beaverbrook (corner of Lake Circle West and Durham Road West). The HCHD monitors MPP concerts for compliance with regulations to protect the public's health, the general welfare, and property.

The location for each of the sound recordings has set noise level measurement limits that determine if violations occur. Allowable noise measurement limits are set in accordance with the distance of the property line from the MPP main stage. Additional sound readings are taken at locations of noise complaints when contact information is provided with an address. When recordings are taken at a complaint location, the allowable limit is based on the nearest recording location noise level standards. The routine testing locations are based on the measured distance a property line is from the main stage. These locations are measured at distances less than or equal to 0.25 miles, between 0.25 and 0.75 miles, and greater than or equal to 0.75 miles. Each measured distance has a set allowable max for noise readings. In addition, it is important to note that when a MPP concert event uses the Chrysalis stage, the distance for allowable limits at each routine testing location or complaint site is still based on the distance from the main stage.

## REPORTING OVERVIEW (2025)

During the Summer 2025 concert series at MPP, there were forty-one (41) events scheduled with one concert canceled. The summer concerts included performances held at the MPP main Stage (Pavilion Stage) and the Chrysalis Stage (Symphony Woods Stage). HCHD monitored thirty (30) of the forty-one (41) concerts representing 73% of the scheduled events for the 2025 concert season. Ten (10) of the forty-one (41) concerts utilized the Chrysalis stage and HCHD provided sound monitoring for eight (8) of these ten (10) events.

While monitoring scheduled concert events, HCHD staff also respond to concert noise complaints that are received by the HCPD from County residents. After the calls are received by HCPD, their communication personnel will notify and relay the caller's contact information and location to the HCHD staff on-site for sound monitoring. This season there were a total of two (2) noise complaint calls reported. The HCHD staff responded to each of the complaint calls and conducted follow-up readings at each of the locations.

## REVIEW OF 2025 NOISE ENFORCEMENT MONITORING PROGRAM

### *a.* Patterns and Trends

As reported in the Reporting Overview, the 2025 Summer Season at the Merriweather Post Pavilion had forty-one (41) scheduled concerts, of which HCHD monitored thirty (30). On average, five (5) to ten (10) routine monitoring locations were visited for each concert monitored, with a range of 1-15 sound readings each. In 2025, two (2) different complaints were received compared to twenty-two (22) complaints received in the 2024 season. Having only 2 complaints for the 2025 summer concert season is the lowest number of complaints in the last four (4) summers. During the 2025 concert season, the noise complaints received were from two different concerts, in which both were multi-day music festival events. This is a great contrast to the 2024 season in which complaints derived from eleven (11) different concerts, including multi-day events. Per the HCHD noise monitoring protocol when responding to a complaint call, readings were taken at the complaint location. After the readings were taken, the resident/ complainant was notified of our follow-up to the noise complaint, except when the caller requested no follow-up or no contact information was provided by the caller. There were no complaints received in 2025 with sound monitoring at the complaint locations that resulted in a documented noise violation. The same was true for the three prior concert seasons (2022 – 2024).

*b. Successes*

Continued collaboration with MPP and HCPD remains successful and strong. Both HCHD and HCPD continue to communicate well and assist each other with following up on reported MPP noise complaints. HCPD has been extremely efficient in identifying and forwarding only noise complaints for MPP. In addition, the HCHD staff and HCPD continue to educate parties about the current sound levels, reminders of the noise regulations, and educate the public about the noise regulations for MPP.

*c. Challenges*

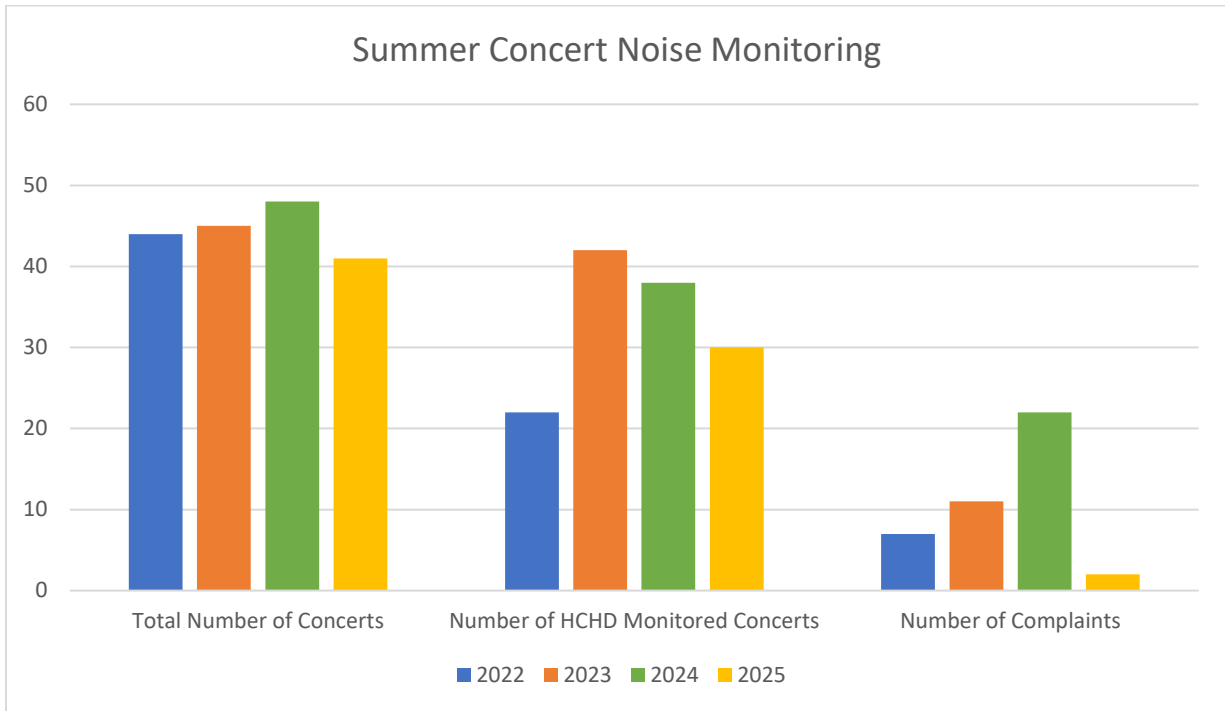
The most common challenges that continue to impact noise monitoring and recordings remained the same for the 2025 concert season.

- Weather that impacts the use of equipment (i.e. precipitation / rain)
- Urban development and any spontaneous ambience sound (i.e. cars passing by, overhead aircraft, outdoor eateries, etc.) that may interfere with concert sound readings
- Receiving complaint calls during regular concert monitoring without enough time to provide an adequate HCHD response during the concert event.
- Development in the Merriweather district with more and taller structures that may be influencing areas of impact with sound reflecting off new buildings causing complaint calls from different residential areas
- New development with other sources of sound such as outdoor seating at new restaurants with music or outside entertainment

*d. Recommended changes or improvements in investigation and enforcement procedures*

Continuing to communicate with concert complainants and residents about the roles and responsibilities of the HCHD and the HCPD related to noise complaints resulting from a MPP concert during a noise complaint condition (i.e. concert venues, commercial vs. residential properties) is important. Due to urban development, review current and new monitoring areas to ensure the effectiveness of the noise monitoring program and that allowable noise levels from MPP are being maintained.

e. Summer Concert Noise Monitoring Graph



f. Summer Concert Noise Monitoring Comparison

Concert Data Summary Comparison Chart								
	Summer 2022		Summer 2023		Summer 2024		Summer 2025	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total # of Concerts Scheduled	44		45		48		41	
Total # of Readings	156		288		200		173	
# of Concerts Monitored by HCHD	22	50%	42	93%	38	79%	30	73%
# of Complaint Calls Received	7	16%	11	24%	22	46%	2	5%
# of Complaint Violations	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
# of Non-MPP Event Scheduled	5	11%	5	11%	5	10%	3	7%
# of Non-MPP Event Monitored by HCHD	0	0%	4	80%	2	40%	1	33%

There were two (2) concerts for the season that resulted in the two (2) reported noise complaints received by HCPD. On average, each concert has 5 to 10 readings with some of the full day events having as many as 15 readings. There was a total of 173 readings completed by HCHD monitors for the year. Out of the 173 readings completed, there were two (2) readings conducted at complaint locations.

The readings that occurred at complaint locations didn't exceed the allowable limit based on the distance from Merriweather Post Pavilion to the complainant's address.

# APPENDICES

- I.** Concert Reporting Schedule and Summary
  
- II.** Noise Monitoring Map & Test Locations (Arial view)
  
- III.** Noise Monitoring Graphs
  - Concert Readings at Routine Monitoring Locations
  - Concert Readings at Complaint Addresses

Appendix I  
Concert Reporting Schedule and  
Summary  
(Summer 2025)

## Concert Reporting Schedule and Summary

Day	Date	Concert Name	Anticipated # of Attendees	Scheduled Time		HCHD Monitor	# of reading	# of Complaint	# of Violation
				Start Time	End Time				
Friday	05/02/2025	M3 Rock Festival – Day 1	5,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Saturday	05/03/2025	M3 Rock Festival – Day 2	5,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	11	0	0
Sunday	05/04/2025	M3 Rock Festival – Day 3	5,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	12	0	0
Thursday	05/08/2025	Rufus du Sol	13,000	7:30pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Saturday	05/10/2025	AAPI Festival*	2,000	12:00pm	5:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Sunday	05/18/2025	Ben Folds	4,000	7:30pm	11:00pm	No			
Saturday	05/24/2025	Sturgis Simpson	9,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Saturday	05/31/2025	Dave Matthews Band	15,000	7:30pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Friday	06/06/2025	Capital Jazz Fest – Day 1	8,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	4	0	0
Saturday	06/07/2025	Capital Jazz Fest – Day 2	12,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	10	0	0
Sunday	06/08/2025	Capital Jazz Fest – Day 3	12,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	7	1	0
Tuesday	06/10/2025	Simple Minds	6,500	7:00pm	11:00pm	No			
Thursday	06/12/2025	Justice	4,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	No			
Friday	06/13/2025	Mt. Joy	10,000	8:30pm	11:00pm	Yes	3	0	0
Saturday	06/14/2025	All Good Now - Day 1	10,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	8	0	0
Sunday	06/15/2025	All Good Now - Day 2	10,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Thursday	06/19/2025	Keith Urban	8,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Sunday	06/22/2025	Mumford and Sons	12,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Thursday	07/10/2025	Counting Crows	8,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Friday	07/18/2025	Old Dominion	10,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Saturday	07/19/2025	Rod Stewart	10,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Friday	07/25/2025	Rainbow Kitten Surprise at The Chrysalis	9,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Tuesday	07/29/2025	Lord Huron	9,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Monday	08/04/2025	King Gizzard and Wizard Lizard	8,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	No			
Tuesday	08/05/2025	Davido	5,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Thursday	08/07/2025	Luke Bryan	10,500	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Sunday	08/10/2025	AJR	11,000	6:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Saturday	08/16/2025	Dark Star Orchestra: Grateful Dead Show (at the Chrysalis)*	4,000	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Friday	08/22/2025	Billy Idol	9,500	7:30pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Thursday	08/28/2025	The Black Keys	7,000	7:30pm	11:00pm	No			
Saturday	08/30/2025	WPOC's Saturday in the Country	9,000	2:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	0	0
Sunday	09/07/2025	Leon Bridges and Charley Crockett	5,500	6:30pm	11:00pm	No			
Wednesday	09/10/2025	HAIM	6,000	7:30pm	11:00pm	No			
Sunday	09/14/2025	Outlaw Music Festival	12,500	4:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Friday	09/26/2025	All Things Go Music Festival – Day 1	15,000	3:00pm	11:00pm	No			
Saturday	09/27/2025	All Things Go Music Festival – Day 2	15,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	1	0	0
Sunday	09/28/2025	All Things Go Music Festival – Day 3	15,000	12:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	6	1	0
Monday	10/06/2025	Renee Rapp	13,000	8:00pm	11:00pm	No			
Thursday	10/09/2025	Laney Wilson	14,500	7:00pm	11:00pm	Yes	5	0	0
Sunday	10/12/2025	Howard County Pride*	3,000	11:00am	6:00pm	No			
Sunday	10/19/2025	Community Concert at the Chrysalis*	3,500	2:30pm	6:00pm	No			

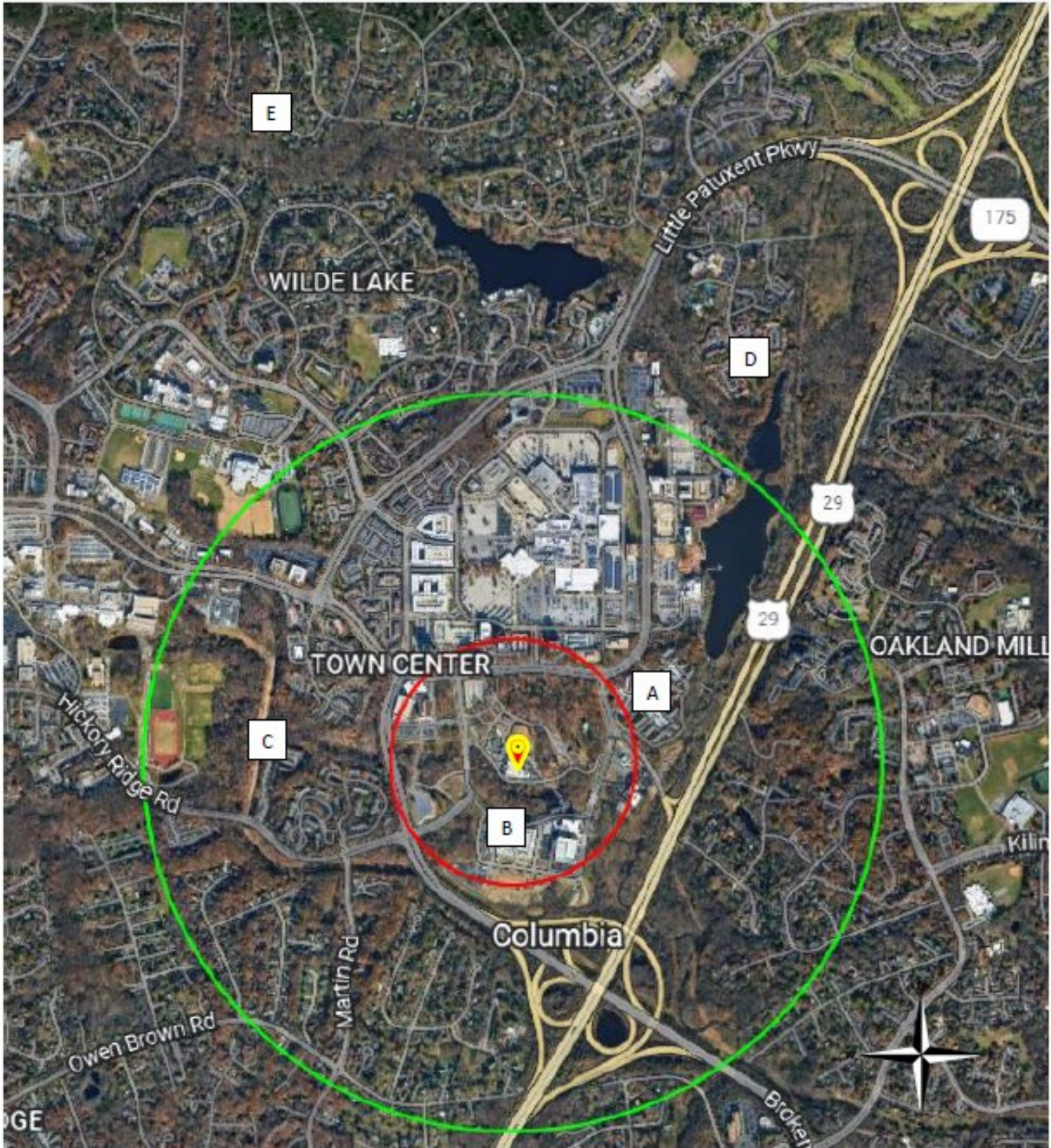
Note: Any concert events with an asterisk (\*) are non-Merriweather events only using Chrysalis Stage.



Appendix II  
Noise Monitoring Map  
&  
Testing Locations  
(Aerial View)

Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP) – Sound Monitoring Radius Map

Red = 0.25 miles radius & Green = 0.75 miles radius



**\*\* Enforcement begins at a receiving residential PROPERTY LINE from the MPP Main Stage \*\***

From 9:00am to 11:00pm, at the indicated distances (miles) from the main stage, an allowable decibel level (dBA) max at a receiving property is allowed:

At 0.25 miles or LESS --- **85dBA max**; Between 0.25 & 0.75 miles --- **72.5 dBA max**; At 0.75 miles or MORE --- **65 dBA max**

- |                                       |  |                                     |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| A: Town Center Apts<br>(72.5 dBA Max) | B. Merriweather District (Juniper)<br>(85.0 dBA Max) | C: College Square<br>(72.5 dBA Max) | D: Vantage Point Rd<br>(65.0 dBA Max) | E: Lake Circle West (Beaverbrook)<br>(65.0 dBA Max) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|

**Appendix III**  
**Noise Monitoring Graphs**  
**Concert Readings at Routine**  
**Monitoring Locations**

Chart showing readings at a routine location (includes reading above and/or near allowable limit)

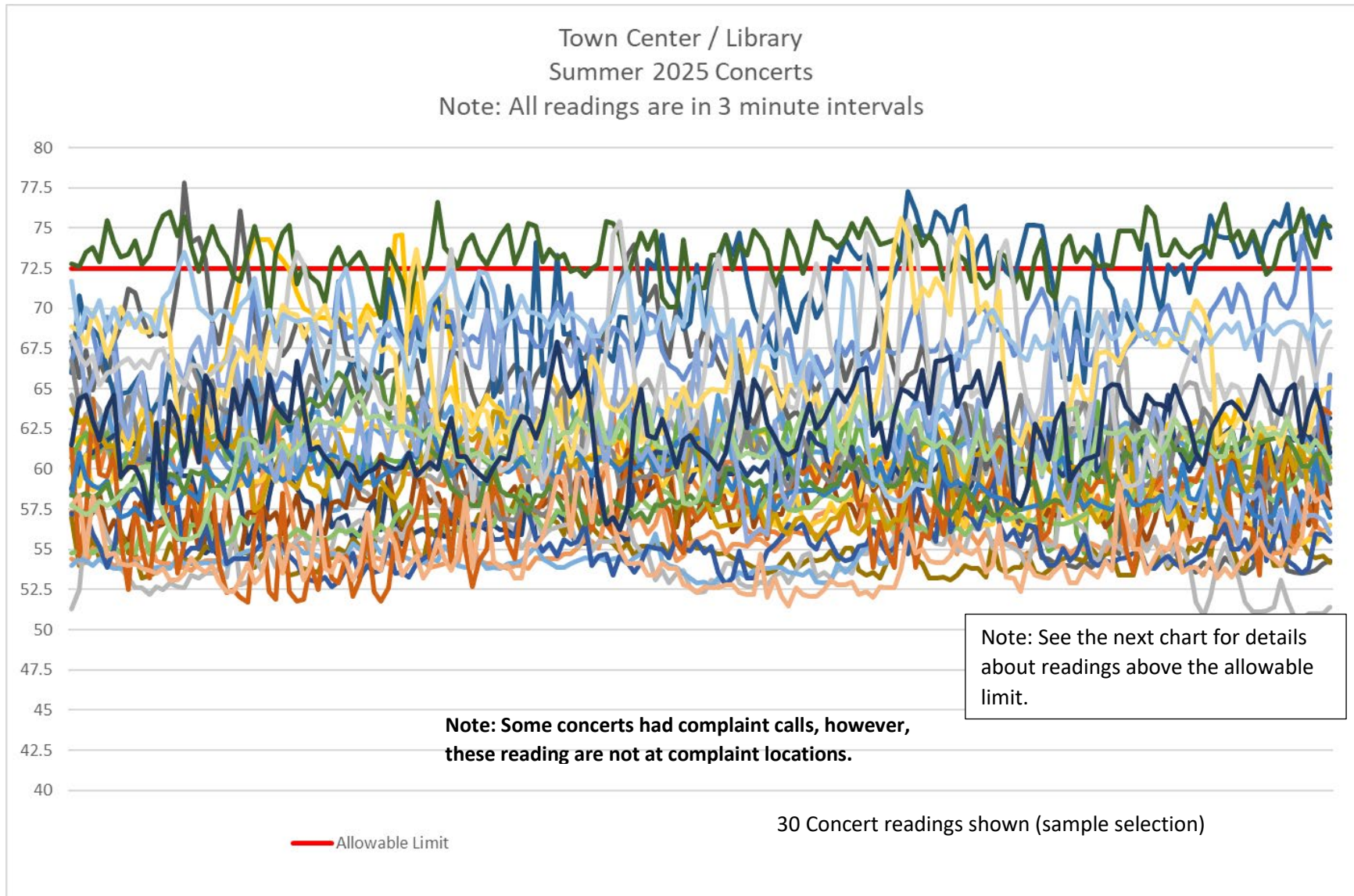


Chart showing readings at a routine location above allowable limit (includes reading near allowable limit)

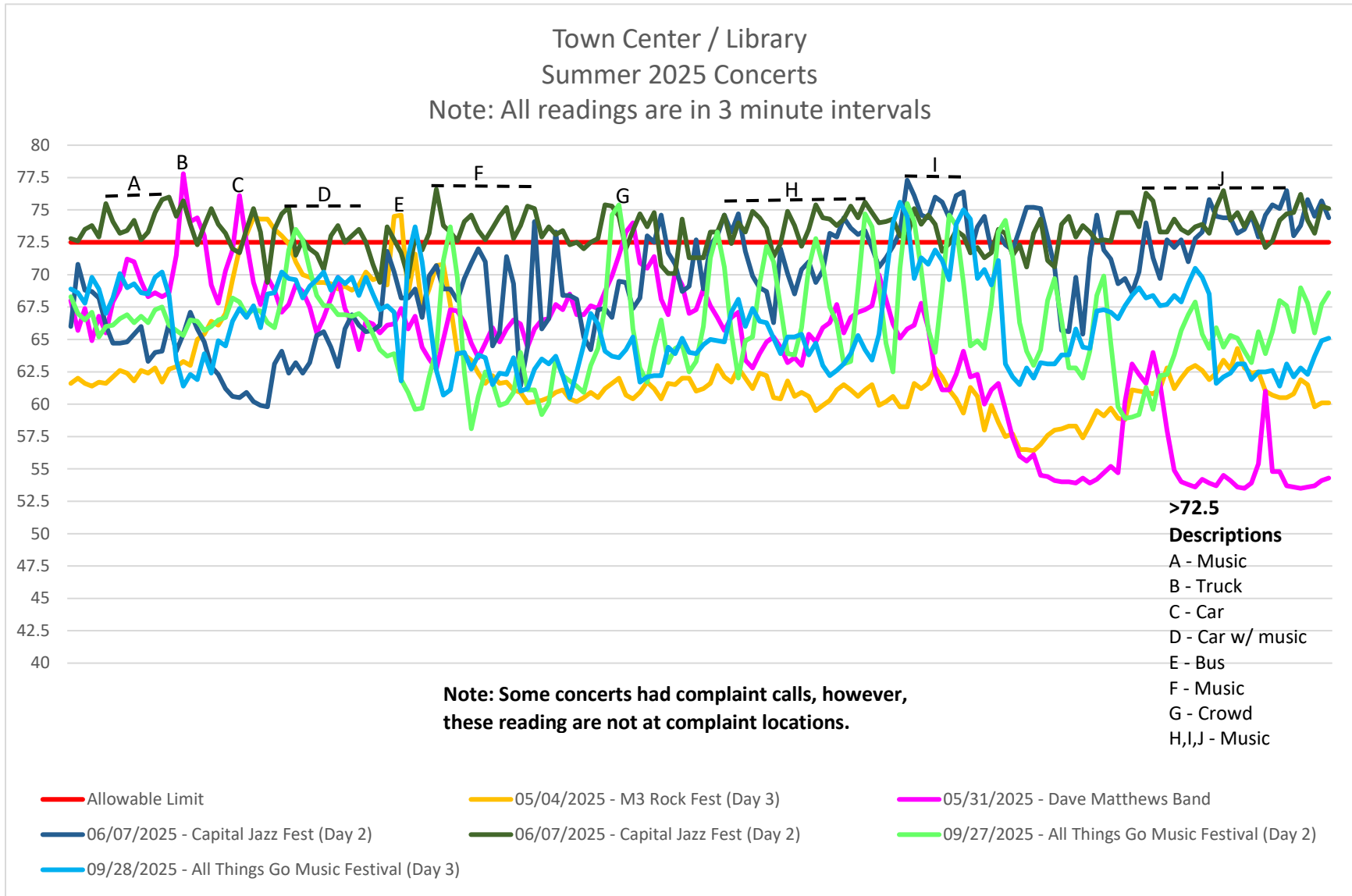
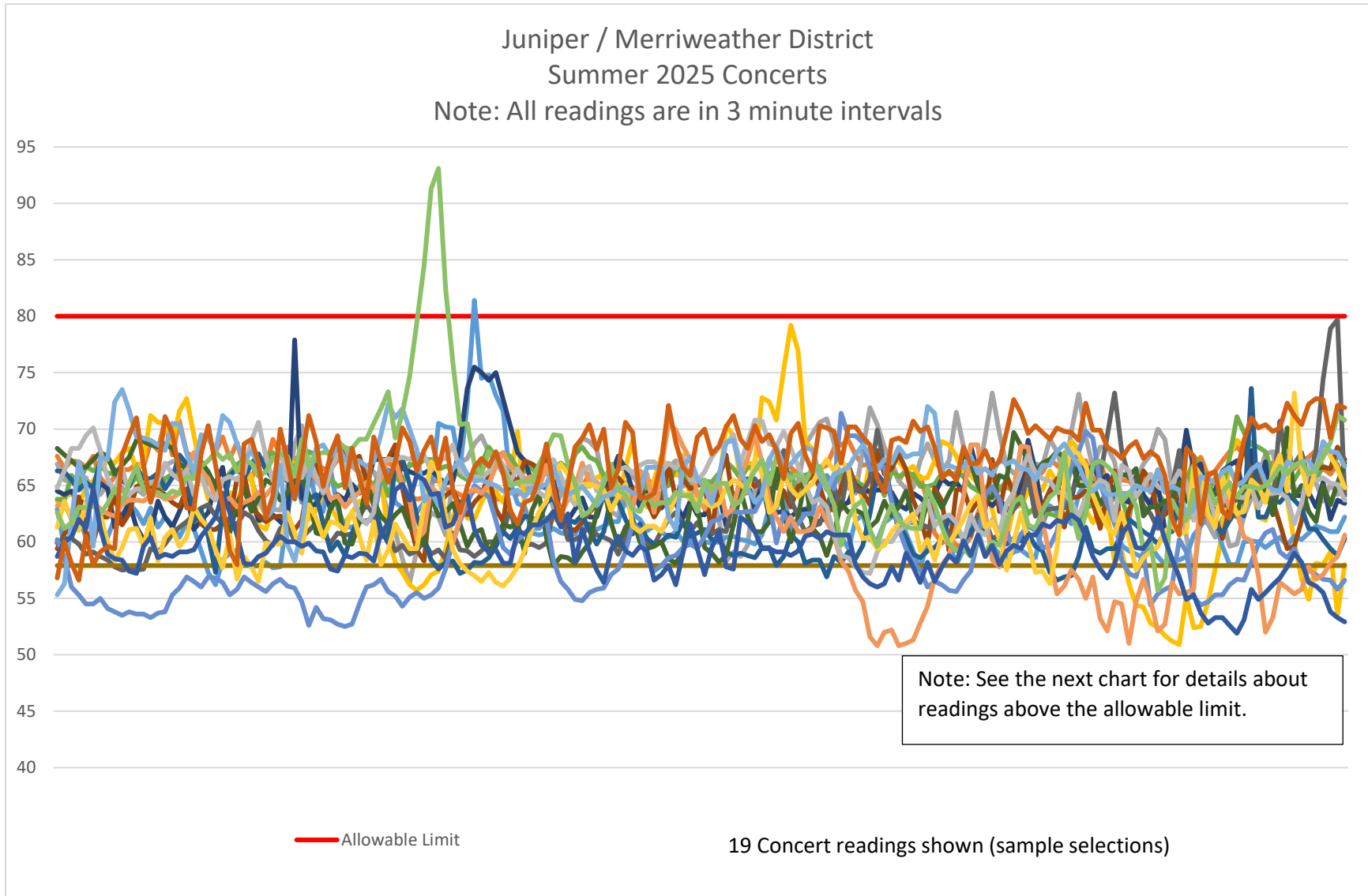


Chart showing readings at a routine location (includes reading above and/or near allowable limit)



**Chart showing readings at a routine location above allowable limit (includes reading near allowable limit)**

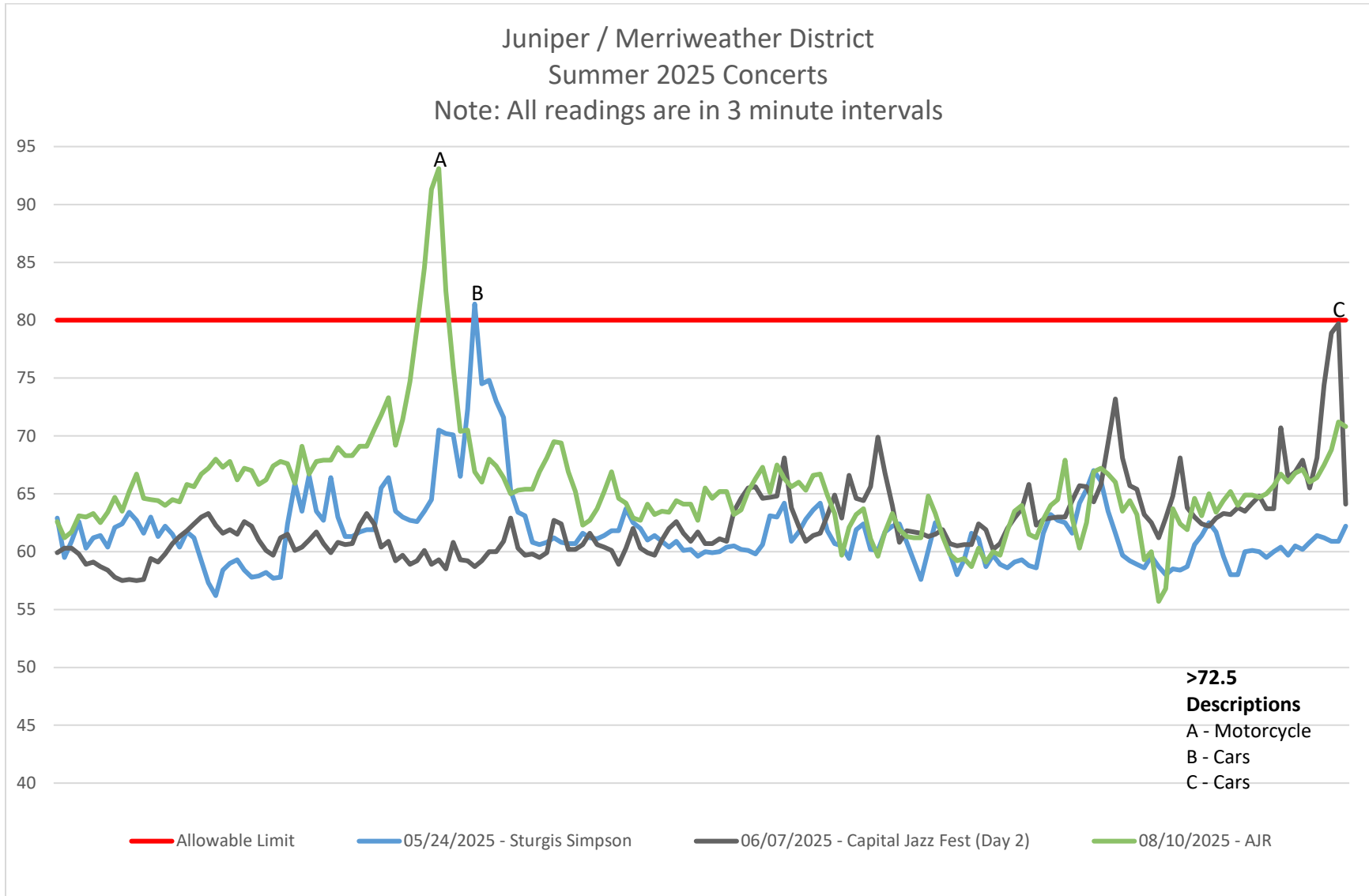


Chart showing readings at a routine location (includes reading above and/or near allowable limit)

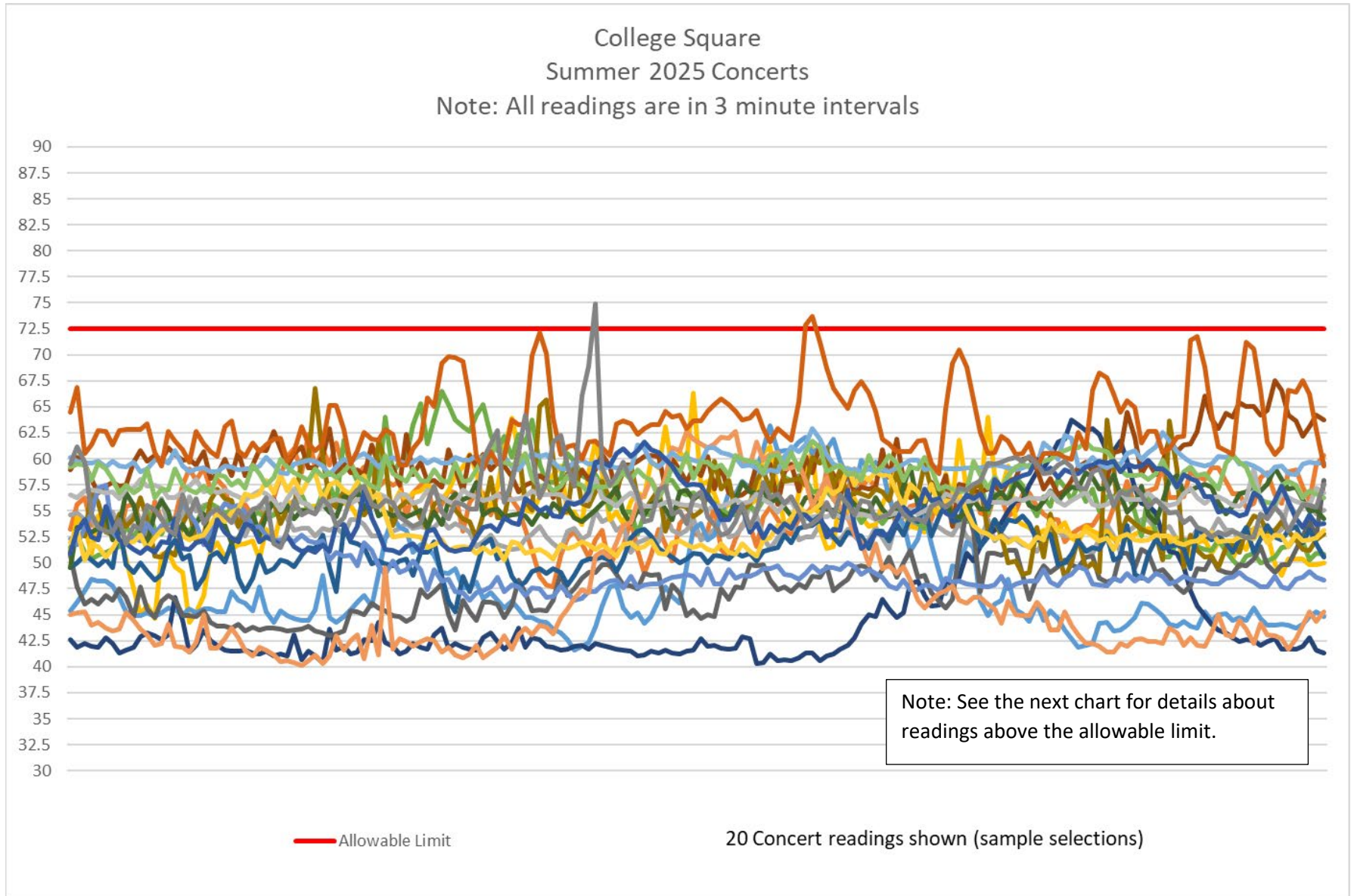


Chart showing readings at a routine location above allowable limit (includes reading near allowable limit)

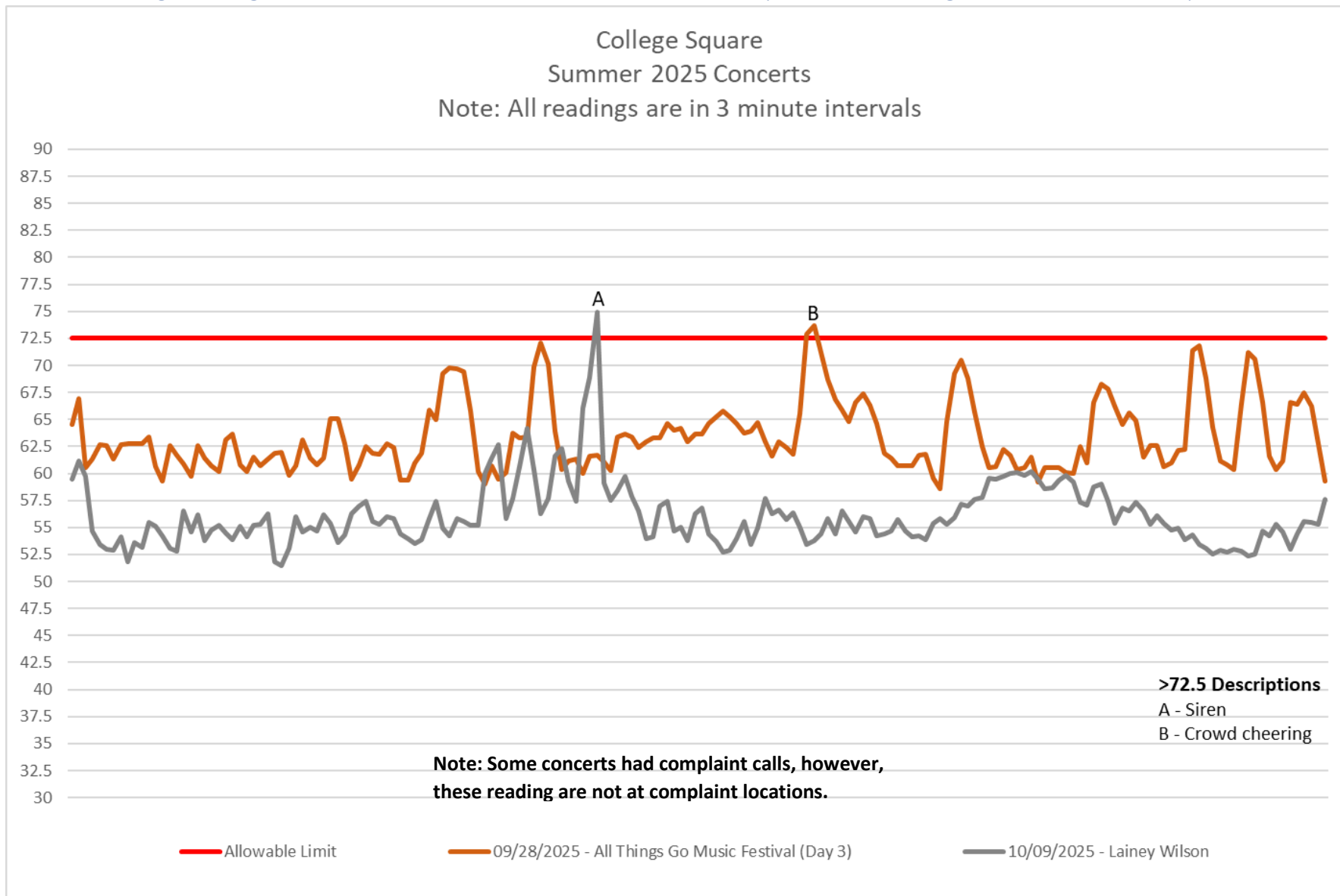


Chart showing readings at a routine location (includes reading above and/or near allowable limit)

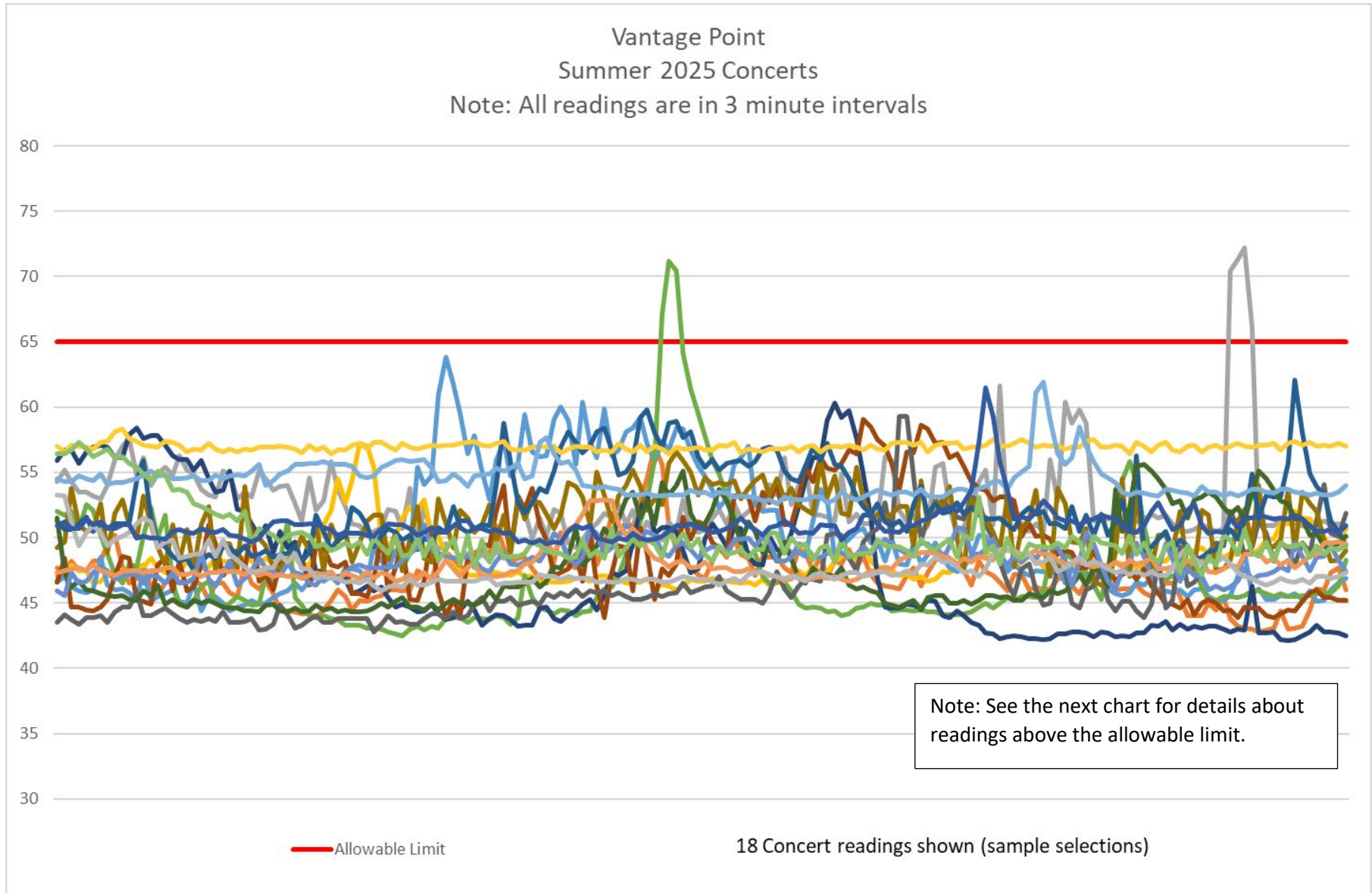


Chart showing readings at a routine location above allowable limit (includes reading near allowable limit)

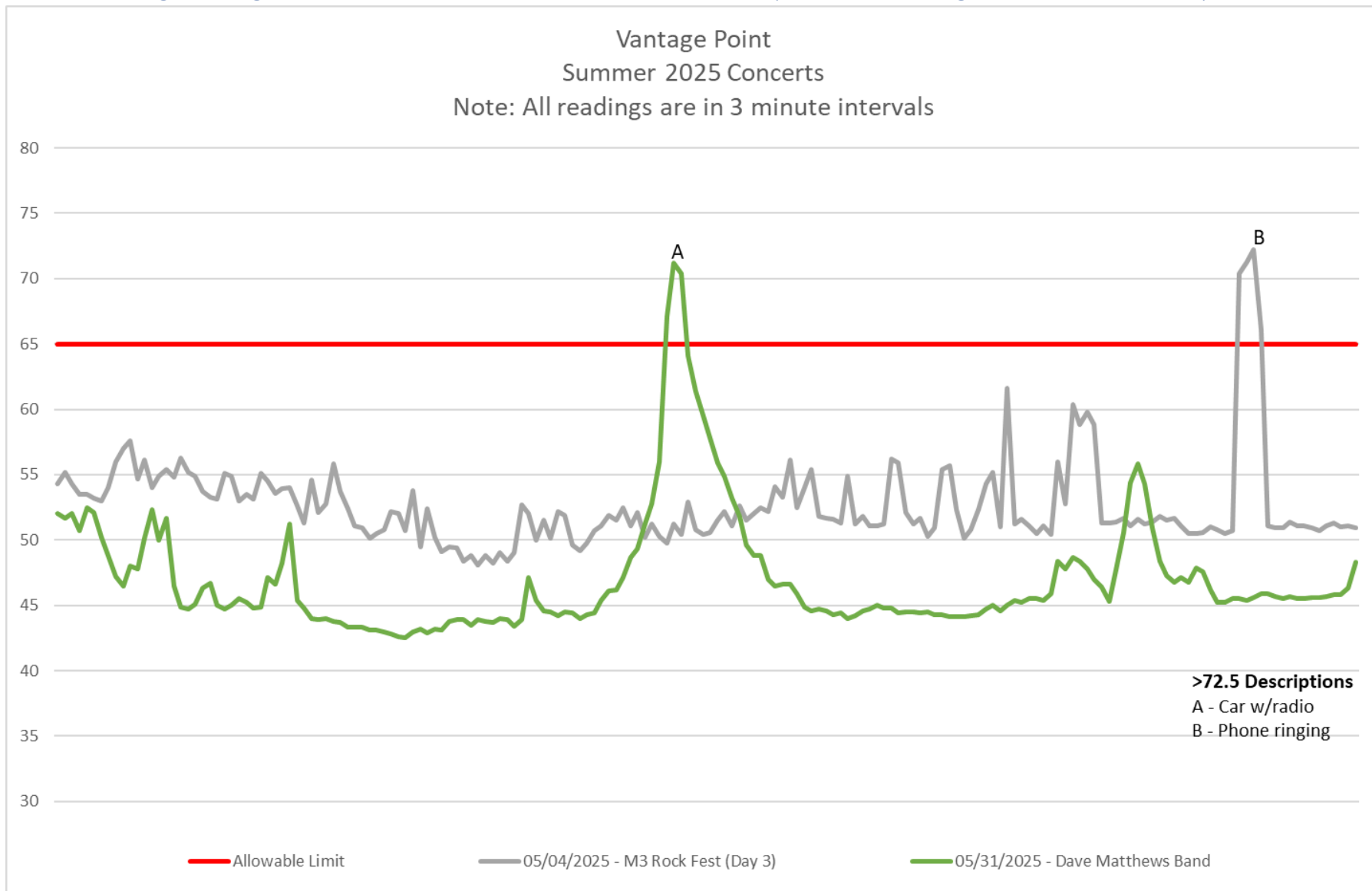
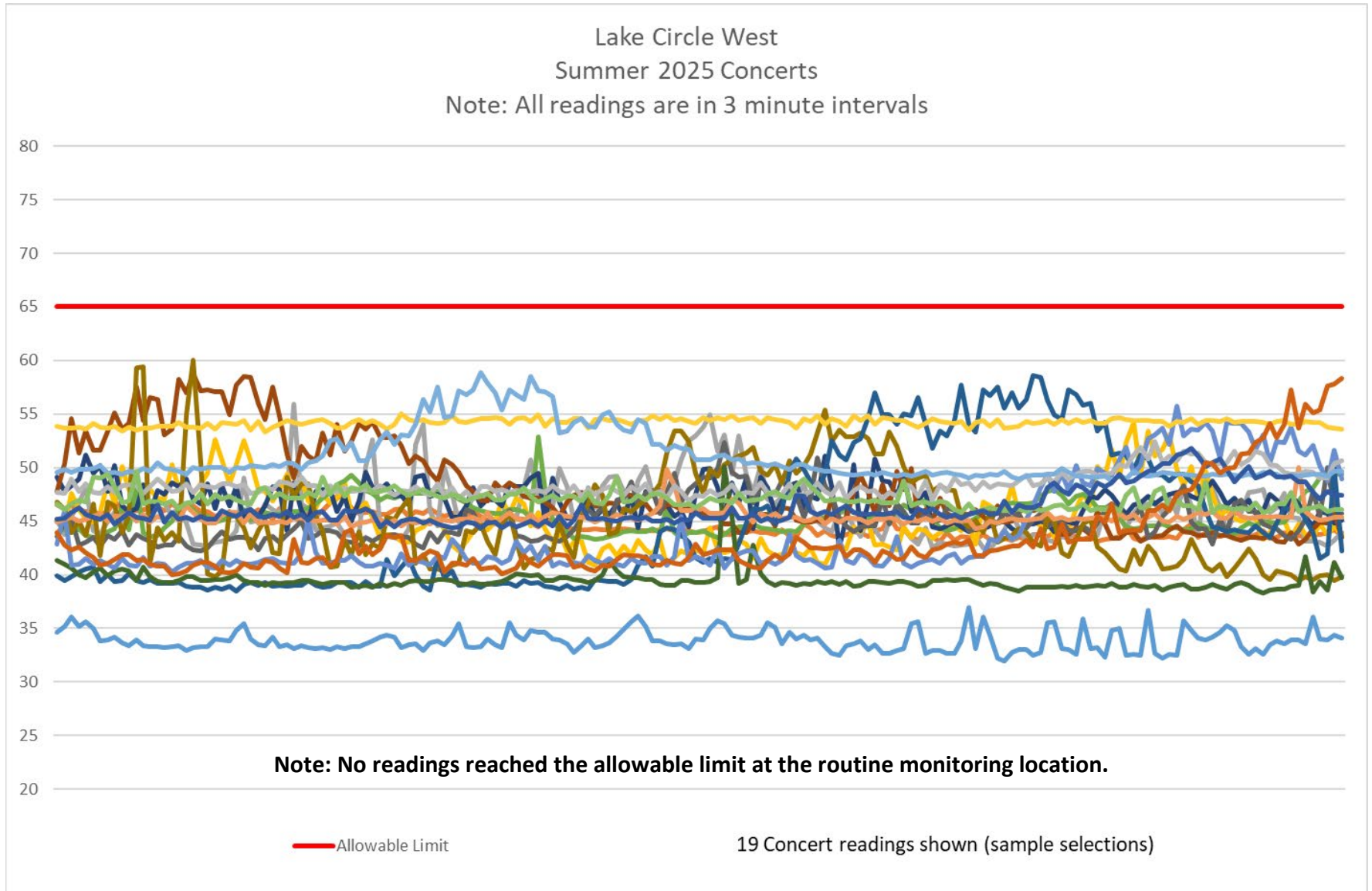


Chart showing readings at a routine location



**Appendix III**  
**Noise Monitoring Graphs**  
**Concert Readings at Complaint Addresses**

Complaint Calls (readings at complainant address)  
Summer 2025 Concerts

Note: All readings are in 3 minute intervals

