

NOISE ORDINANCE REVISIONS

We streamlined the language of ordinance to increase readability. We also removed redundant and unconstitutional references.

NEW LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

We added new definitions for Legal Holidays and Multi-unit Structures

REVISED LANGUAGE DEFINITIONS

We redefined Noise Disturbance Standards, Motor Cycles and Motor Vehicles

NEW STANDARD MEASUREMENTS

We established new measurement standards for Motor Vehicle Noise to allow for more effective enforcement when heard above street level.

REVISED STANDARD MEASUREMENTS

We revised the measurement standard for noise disturbances to include a new allowance for the collection of sound readings at any location that receives the noise disturbance, including high-rise locations.

NEW STANDARD FOR DEVELOPMENTS

We defined new standards for noise disturbances to include a new collection standard within multi-unit structures like site-plan developments; this is an important addition given our numerous mixed-use developments.

REVISED STANDARD ZONING DESIGNATIONS

We expanded the zoning designations to include all approved zoning groups to provide for equitable enforcement of the noise control ordinance.

NEW STANDARD EXEMPTIONS

We introduced a number of limited exemptions to practically align the ordinance with expectations for equitable enforcement and compliance with constitutional standards. A special exemption was introduced for electrical generators used during an emergency.

NEW STANDARDS PROHIBITED ACTS

We expanded the Prohibited Acts section of the ordinance to effectively allow equitable enforcement without the use of sound measurement devices.

- New prohibitions address sounds from amplified sources and instruments using an audible standard.
- Noise sourced from loud gatherings in residential (“R”) districts during the night, whether on private property or public streets.
- Extended the period for idling of a commercial vehicle to a more practical ten-minute minimum when parked.
- Introduced a standard that prohibits lawn and garden maintenance using motorized equipment at night, and further prohibits the use of leaf blowers in residential (“R”) districts during the night.
- Revised the standard for animal noises to a ten-minute test of continued and frequent sound heard within a dwelling unit or at a street.
- Introduced a standard that prohibits the holder of a noise exemption granted under the ordinance to violate the approved terms.

REVISED STANDARD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Clarifies emergency repairs and public utility work conducted by local, state or federal agencies. Strengthens requirements to have developers and owners determine and provide industry standard sound mitigation solutions for noise sources at construction sites.

NEW STANDARD EXEMPTIONS

Introduces a number of limited exemptions to practically align the ordinance with expectations for equitable enforcement and compliance with constitutional standards.

REVISED EXEMPTIONS ISSUED BY THE COUNTY MANAGER

Revised standards for limited term exemptions and partial exemptions granted by the County, following a review. New standards require the public posting of a placard at the location of the exemption during the term of the exemption. The placard shall provide the terms of the exemption as a notification to the community.

REVISED CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Increases criminal penalty fines from \$25.00 to not less than \$100.00, or more than \$2500.00 upon conviction. Additionally, violators may be imprisoned in the Arlington County Jail for a period of up to thirty days. Each calendar day in violation

constitutes a separate offense for which penalties and fines may be imposed. Criminal penalties are intended to be the primary enforcement tool used by the Arlington County Police.

NEW CIVIL PENALTIES

Introduces civil penalties that may be assessed after notice is delivered to the owner or responsible party, or following a public posting at the premises. Civil penalties of up to \$250.00 may be assessed for the first violation with penalties of up to \$500.00 for subsequent violations. The County may also pursue civil relief in the Courts for continued non-compliance.

NEW CIVIL APPEAL PROCESSES

Created procedures for appeals, which shall be filed with the Director of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development within five days of delivery of the citation. As a protection to community during the period prior to the appeal hearing, the civil citation remains in full force and effect pending the final outcome of the appeal.