

Noise Ordinance Townhall Information Sheet

Q: When was the City’s noise ordinance adopted?

A: Chapter 17 – The current version of Noise Control was originally adopted in 2008. The ordinance was last modified in 2022 (The times for Landscaping and yard maintenance power tools or motorized equipment were changed).

Q: Where are measurements for sound complaints taken?

A: The property line of the complainant.

Q: What are the permissible sound limits for a residential use and/or when there is a residential complainant?

A:

USE	TIMES	OUTDOOR	INDOOR
Residential	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	60 dBA*	45 dBA
	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	50 dBA	35 dBA

Q: What are the permissible sound limits in commercial use and/or commercial complainant?

A:

USE	TIMES	OUTDOOR	INDOOR
Commercial	24 hours	65 dBA	55 dBA

Q: When are indoor measurements taken?

A: Indoor sound level measurements shall apply when the sound source is on or within the same parcel of land as the complainant or when the real property line between the sound source and the complainant is a common wall, floor, or ceiling. Indoor sound level measurements shall be taken within the premises of the complainant.

Q: What are the sound limits in the Special Entertainment Overlay District?

A: When measured at a distance of five (5) feet from the building, structure or establishment from which the sound is emanating:

i. Sound shall not exceed:

1. Eighty-five (85) dBA or ninety-five (95) dBC Monday through Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. the following day:

2. Seventy (70) dBA or eighty (80) dBC Monday through Thursday from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 3. Sixty-five (65) dBA or seventy-five (75) dBC Monday through Thursday from 2:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- ii. Sound shall not exceed:
1. Eighty-five (85) dBA or ninety-five (95) dBC Friday through Sunday and legal holidays (as provided by state law), from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. the following day:
 2. Seventy (70) dBA or eighty (80) dBC Friday through Sunday and legal holidays (as defined by state law), from 1:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.
 3. Sixty-five (65) dBA or seventy-five (75) dBC Friday through Sunday and legal holidays (as defined by State law), from 3:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Q: What is the penalty for a noise violation?

A: A warning civil citation with no financial penalty is issued for a first-time offender. The warning includes the timeframe for compliance. The next civil citation results in a \$250.00 civil citation. Repeat offenders are subject to a citation of \$500.00. Citations are taken before the Special Magistrate for imposition and/or if appealed within 15 days of issuance.

Q: Does the ordinance address vehicular noise?

A: Yes. 17-7.1.b. *Rights-of-way*. Sound shall not be plainly audible at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet or more from a motor vehicle or any other sound source.

No person shall cause a rapid throttle advance (revving) of an internal combustion engine resulting in a noise disturbance.

Q: Does the ordinance address noise caused by vessels?

A: Yes. Vessels operated on the waterways within the city limits which are muffled pursuant to F.S. § 327.65, as may be amended from time to time.

Motorboat. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any motorboat in any lake, river, stream, or other waterway which is not muffled pursuant to F.S. § 327.65.

Q: When is Marine Patrol active?

A: Marine Patrol operates 7 days a week, but only during day shift. So, they are not in operation after 5. Chief Schultz is exploring other ways to expand their operations.

Noise Consultant's Recommendations

Special Entertainment District Overlay:

1. Maintain the current sound limits in the ordinance.
2. Add required compliance for sounds propagating from Entertainment Districts at residential receiving properties using the current dBA and new proposed dBC residential sound level limits in the noise ordinance. This would require special measurement procedures to implement.
3. Develop ways to enforce current sound limits.
 - a. Recommendations: Venues self-monitor. Add maximum indoor limits for clubs and entertainment venues.

Residential Sound Limits:

1. Enforce noise without the need for a complainant.
- 2.

ADD C-WEIGHTED RESIDENTIAL SOUND LEVEL LIMIT TO TABLE 1 SECTION 17-6

2. Consider using a C-weighted, LCFmax, metric in addition to the A-weighted metric in all zoning categories. The dBC sound level would be 10 dB higher than the current dBA sound level.
 - a. Consideration could be given to reducing the dBC to dBA difference to 5 dB after 11:00 p.m. or 12:00 a.m. after a 6 month or 12 month trial period of including the C-weighted metric for all measurements.
 - b. Consider raising the night time sound level limit to 55 dBA and 60 dBC in areas of the City where the "Quiet ambient" and "General ambient" sound levels measured in this study are > 55 dBA/55 dBC. This includes buildings that are immediately adjacent to The Wharf, Riverwalk, and built up areas of the City.
 - c. Consider raising the night time sound level limit to 55 dBA and 60 dBC in areas immediately adjacent to A1A and Seabreeze in the Beaches.
 - d. The current 50 dBA sound level limit should remain in place in other areas of the City with lower densities and less vehicular traffic.

Code Enforcement:

1. Use ANSI and ASTM standards for equipment.
2. Consider Type 1 sound level meters.
3. Require training for staff.

Vehicular Noise:

1. Consider a pilot installation of vehicle noise detection systems to help address vehicular noise to determine if the technology is feasible to achieve the City's goals.