

Sec. 8-1-16. - Regulation of noise.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud and raucous noise which term shall mean any sound which, because of its volume level, duration, and character, annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensibilities within the limits of the city.
- (b) The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud and raucous noises in violation of this section 8-1-16, which enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:
  - (1) *Horns and signaling devices.* The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle or other vehicle on any street or public place of the city, except as a danger warning; the creation by means of any such signaling device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; the sounding of any such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time; the use of any signaling device except one operated by hand or electricity; the use of any horn, whistle or other device operated by engine exhaust; and the use of any such signaling device when traffic is for any reason held up. The use of sirens, except by authorized emergency vehicles, is prohibited.
  - (2) *Radios, phonographs and similar devices.* The using, operating or permitting to be played, used or operated, of any radio receiving set, television set, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle or chamber in which the machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this paragraph.
  - (3) *Local vocal noises.* Vocal noises made in a loud and raucous manner between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in any office or other place of business, or in any dwelling, hotel or other type of residence.
  - (4) *Animals and birds.* The keeping of any animal or bird which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort or repose of persons in the vicinity.
  - (5) *Exhaust.* The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor boat, or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
  - (6) *Defect in vehicle or load.* The use of any automobile, motorcycle or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded or in such manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.
  - (7) *Construction or repairing of buildings.*
    - (i) The erection, including excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of any building other than between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, except in case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the director of inspections, which permit may be granted for a period not to exceed three (3) days while the emergency continues and which permit may be renewed for periods of three (3) days or less while the emergency continues. If the director of inspections should determine that the public health and safety will not be impaired by the erection, demolition, alteration or repair of any building or the excavation of streets and highways within the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and if he shall further determine that loss or inconvenience would result to any party in interest, he may grant permission for such work to be done within the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., including Sundays, upon application being made at the time the permit for work is awarded or during the progress of the work.

- (ii) *Reserved.* At the request of the city this section has been removed.
- (8) *Schools, courts, churches, hospitals, and other medical facilities.* No person, while on public or private grounds adjacent to any building in which a school, court, church, hospital, or other medical facility is in session or in use, shall willfully make or assist in the making of any noise which disturbs the peace or good order of such activity occurring within the building. The term "medical facility," as used in this paragraph, includes physicians' offices, walk-in medical centers, medical diagnostic testing centers, surgical centers and facilities which provide reproductive health services including the termination of pregnancy and/or counseling or referral services relating to the human reproductive system.
- (9) *Construction equipment.*
- (i) The operation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and at any time on Sundays of any pile driver, steam or power shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, steam or electric hoist or other appliance, the use of which is attended by loud or unusual noise.
- (ii) The provisions of subsection (i), above, insofar as they pertain to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sundays are suspended and shall not be operative through December 31, 2006, in order to facilitate residential repair from damage caused by Hurricane Ivan.
- (10) *Electronic sound amplification.* The use of electronic sound amplification equipment in such a manner as to produce a sound which is capable of being heard at a point in excess of fifty (50) feet between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited in the following zones: R-1AAAA, R-1AAAA, R-1AAA, R-1AA, R-1A, R-ZL, R-2A, R-2, R-NC, HR-1, HR-2, HC-1, PR-1AAA, PR-2, ATZ-1 and ATZ-2.
- (c) The provisions of section 8-1-16 are intended to be construed to secure for the people freedom from unwanted loud and raucous noise as described herein without violating any of the rights secured by the constitution to the people, and are not intended, nor shall they be construed, to regulate the usual and customary noise incidental to urban life.
- (d) *Penalty.* Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to the penalty provided by section 1-1-8 of the Code.
- (e) *Additional remedy, injunction.* As an additional remedy, the operation or maintenance of any device, instrument, vehicle or machinery in violation of any provision hereof and which causes discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitiveness or which endangers the comfort, repose, health or peace of residents in an area shall be deemed, and is declared to be, a public nuisance and may be subject to abatement summarily by a restraining order or injunction issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(Ord. No. 52-87, § 1, 12-10-87; Ord. No. 7-93, § 1, 4-8-93; Ord. No. 33-94, § 2, 9-18-94; Ord. No. 37-94, § 1, 10-13-94; Ord. No. 4-95, § 1, 1-26-95; Ord. No. 07-05, §§ 1, 2, 6-23-05)