

Borough of Highlands Public Notice

Please take notice that the following ordinance was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, on January 7, 2015. Notice is hereby given that the following ordinance will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Highlands Elementary School, 360 Navesink Avenue, Highlands, NJ 07732, on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 8:00 PM. At that time, the public is invited to participate in the discussion of the Ordinance. Copies of the Ordinance are available in the Municipal Clerk's Office located at 42 Shore Drive, Highlands, NJ and are posted on the Display Board at the Municipal Building. Copies are available at no charge to the general public.

O-15-1

BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

AN ORDINANCE REPLACING SECTION 3-2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE, "NOISE," IN ITS ENTIRETY

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands finds that it is necessary, for proper enforcement, to revise its noise ordinance in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the Borough of Highlands as follows:

SECTION ONE: Section 3-2, "Noise," of the Revised General Ordinance of the Borough of Highlands shall be repealed and replaced with the following:

3-2 NOISE.

3-2.1 Declaration of findings and definitions.

- a. Excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public health, welfare, safety, and the quality of life;
- b. A substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated;
- c. The people have a right to an environment free from excessive sound;
- d. It is the policy of the Borough to prevent excessive sound that may jeopardize the health, welfare, or safety of the citizens or degrade the quality of life; and,

- e. This ordinance shall apply to the control of excessive sound originating from sources within the Borough.
- f. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:
 - i. "Daytime Hours" are defined as 7AM-8PM Sunday through Thursday and 7AM-10PM Friday, Saturday and Legal Holidays.
 - ii. "Plainly audible" shall mean any sound that can be detected by a person using his or her unaided hearing faculties of normal acuity. As an example, if the sound source under investigation is live entertainment or a portable or personal vehicular sound amplification or reproduction device, the detection of the rhythmic base component of the music is sufficient to verify plainly audible sound. The law enforcement officer need not determine the title, specific words or the artist performing the song.
 - iii. "Nighttime Hours" are defined as 8PM-7AM Sunday through Thursday and 10PM-7AM Friday, Saturday and Legal Holidays.
 - iv. "Speech interference" occurs when the noise from the noise-generating source under investigation results in the need for persons engaged in conversation with one another, at a distance of approximately 2 feet from one another, to raise their voice level to be fully heard by the other person when conversing at or within the property line of the complainant.

3-2.2 Prohibited Noise.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary or unreasonable sound or any sound which annoys or disturbs the peace, quiet or safety of others, as follows:

- a. During nighttime hours no person shall permit any noise to emanate from any source or instrument whether natural or artificial, or use equipment outside or inside a dwelling, structure or other establishment on a property in the Borough of Highlands such that the noise created thereby is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred (100) feet beyond the property line of the noise-generating property.
- b. During daytime hours no person shall permit any noise to emanate from any source or instrument whether natural or artificial, or use equipment outside or inside a dwelling, structure or other establishment on a property in the Borough of Highlands such that the noise created thereby is deemed to be unreasonable by the Borough Code Enforcement Officer or Borough Police Officer. In determining whether a noise is unreasonable the following factors should be considered.
 - 1. Intensity of the noise
 - 2. Intensity of the background noise (i.e., ambient sound level when no or minimal noise is emanating from the source under investigation)
 - 3. Duration of the noise (i.e., period of time it is in operation)

4. Frequency of the noise (i.e., how often it occurs per hour, per day, per week, etc.)
 5. To what degree the noise is in the control of the owner or other responsible party (e.g., can the volume of an amplifier or similar device be lowered or is the noise level inherent to the activity)
 6. Proximity of the noise source to residential properties
 7. Time of the day the noise occurs
 8. Number and frequency of complaints concerning the noise-generating property
 9. Whether the noise is audible inside the complainant's residence or business
 10. Whether the noise interferes with sleep, conversation, or repose
- c. When an officer can hear plainly audible music or other sound at a distance of one hundred (100) feet beyond the property line of the noise-generating property during nighttime hours, or any unreasonable sound at or within a complainant's property during daytime hours, there is a violation of this section and the violator is subject to the penalties of this chapter.

3-2.3 Partial Enumeration of Prohibited Noise.

The following activities, among others, are declared unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in violation of this chapter:

- a. The sounding of a horn or signaling device on an automobile, motorcycle or other motorized vehicle, except as a warning of danger, and then only for such period of time as is reasonably necessary for giving such warning;
- b. The use, operation or playing of any loudspeakers, amplifiers, instrument, or other machines or devices for the producing of sound which is cast upon a public street for the purpose of commercial advertising or attracting the attention of the public;
- c. The shouting of peddlers, hawkers and vendors which disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood;
- d. The keeping of any animal or bird which by causing frequent or long-continued noise, such as barking or jabbering, shall disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of neighboring inhabitants; and,
- e. Creating an audible noise, which results in a complaint, beyond the property line of a property under construction or renovation including activities, such as, erection, excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of any building other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except in the case of urgent matters and in the interest of public safety and health.

3-2.4 Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

- a. Any public works projects for construction deemed to be in the public's welfare, safety and for the public good and only with prior approval from the Governing Body.
- b. Sounds created by any government agency by the use of public warning devices.
- c. Sound and vibration emitted for the purpose of alerting people in an emergency or in the performance of the response to an emergency.
- d. Sounds connected with any authorized carnival, fair, exhibition, parade or community celebration or from any municipally sponsored celebration, event, activity or individually sponsored event where a permit or other relevant permission has been obtained from the Governing Body.
- e. The playing by a band or orchestra in a hall or building or in the open air, where duly authorized by the Governing Body.
- f. Noise from an exterior burglar alarm of any building or motor vehicle provided such burglar alarm shall terminate its operation within five (5) minutes after it has been activated.
- g. Noise from domestic power tools, used for routine maintenance, such as, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and similar equipment when operated between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekends and legal holidays, provided they are equipped with a muffler, if so equipped by the manufacturer, and are properly maintained so to not produce excessive noise.
- h. Noise from snow blowers, snow throwers, and snow plows when operated with a muffler, if so equipped by the manufacturer, for the purpose of snow removal.
- ~~i. The unamplified human voice engaged at conversational levels shall be exempt from this provision if such sound is not plainly audible beyond 100 feet or does not infringe on the legitimate rights of others. Raised vocal effort, such as shouting, yelling or screaming, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm or recklessly causing a risk thereof or that serves no legitimate purpose, when audible at distances greater than 100 feet, is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section and the violator is subject to the penalties of this chapter. This shall not apply to spontaneous utterances such as laughter, exclamations of warning, or sporting events.~~
- i. Outdoor music, either live or recorded, when operated during the months of May through October and between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, or between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday when such outdoor music is operated in a reasonable manner and at a reasonable sound level. Music which is plainly audible inside a complainant's property, with all windows and doors closed, or music which interferes with conversation (i.e., speech interference) at the property line of the complainant is considered to be unreasonably loud and in violation of this section and the violator is subject to the penalties of this chapter. Establishments which operate with a liquor license and have been found to be

responsible for unreasonable noise, as defined herein, may be subject to additional sanctions from the Borough's Alcohol Beverage Control Board which may include restrictions to their liquor license to minimize the likelihood of subsequent violations of this chapter.

- j. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to church bells or chimes, or to sounds typically generated by vehicles engaged in the residential sale of ice cream.
- k. Sounds emanating from any youth sporting event sponsored by an organized community organization, the Borough, or any school or school district.

3-2.5 Violations and Penalties.

- a. Any person found guilty of violating any of the foregoing provisions concerning plainly audible noise, unreasonable noise or unnecessary noise shall be subject to a fine not to exceed two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars for an initial violation. For a second violation, the fine shall not exceed five hundred (\$500.00) dollars. For a third violation, the fine shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty (\$750.00) dollars. For a fourth violation, the fine shall not exceed one thousand (\$1000.00) dollars. For a fifth violation, the fine shall not exceed fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) dollars. For a sixth violation, the fine shall not exceed two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars as well as for any violation thereafter. Additionally, when an offender is found to be a repetitious offender, the offender shall be subject to not more than 30 days imprisonment in the county jail for each subsequent offense. A repeat offender shall be defined as an individual who has violated the statute more than three times within a four-week period of time.
- b. Each day that this chapter is violated shall constitute a separate offense.

3-2.6 Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall not be invalidated.

3-2A RESERVED.

SECTION THREE. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

SECTION FOUR. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE. Effective. This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication as provided by law.

Carolyn Cummins
Borough Clerk

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