



# Proposed Noise Ordinance

Development Process Committee Discussion

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Department of Planning and Zoning

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### Basic Premise

- Recognize that there will always be certain levels of noise that occur in the normal course of daily living.
- Focus is on allowing certain levels of daytime noise so that people can work, live, and play during the day; and
- Minimize nighttime noise so residents have an appropriate quiet environment in their homes at night.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### Framework

- Certain activities are prohibited.
- Certain activities are not subject to the Noise Ordinance (exception).
- When not specifically prohibited or excepted, than subject to decibel levels.

\*Further qualified by time, location and duration.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### **NOISE PROHIBITED AT NIGHT**

- Generally, between 9:00 /10:00 pm and 7:00 am, and
- Certain activities prohibited until 9:00 am on weekends and holidays such as:
  - Use of loudspeakers
  - Dog Parks
  - Construction activities

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

## NOISE PERMITTED DURING THE DAY:

- Generally from 7:00 am to 9:00/10:00 pm with certain activities beginning as early as 6:00 am such as:
  - Outdoor trash collection
  - Outdoor loading and unloading of trucks
  - Landfill Operations
  
- On weekends and holidays certain activities permitted to extend into late evening/early morning hours:
  - Activities on school and recreational grounds permitted until 11:00 pm
  - People noise in mixed use areas until 1:00 am

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### **NOISE NOT SUBJECT TO THE NOISE ORDINANCE**

- Emergency work/alarms/backup generators during power outage
- Activities preempted by Federal or State Law
- Motor Vehicles on the Road ROW
- Operation of helicopters and airplanes
- Trains traveling on railroad tracks and railroad track maintenance
- Snow and Ice removal
- Residential heat pumps/AC units on single family lots when operating in accordance with mfr. specs.
- Impulse sounds that do not exceed decibels listed in max. decibel chart

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### **TOPICS WHERE GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED**

- Activities on School & Recreational Grounds
- “People Noise”
- Dog Parks
- Golf Course Lawn Maintenance
- Trash Collection
- Maximum Sound Levels in Residential Districts

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL & RECREATIONAL GROUNDS

#### Current Proposal

- Permitted without any limitations from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm on Sun. -Thurs; and from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 pm on Fri, Sat, and the day before a holiday.
- Subject to max. decibels at all other times.
- Loudspeakers not permitted before 9:00 am on weekends and holidays.
- When loudspeakers are used, the cumulative noise cannot exceed 72 dBA.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### ACTIVITIES ON RECREATIONAL & SCHOOL GROUNDS

#### Issues

- Is 9:00 am too late to begin the use of loudspeakers on recreational and school grounds on weekends and holidays?
- Is 7:00 am too early to begin exempting activities on recreational and school grounds?
- Should the max. noise level allowed when loudspeakers are in use be reduced to 65 or 60 dBA?

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### “PEOPLE NOISE”

#### Current Proposal

- Includes sound produced by people, motor vehicles & instruments.
- Must be able to identify the source of sound – “discernible”.
- Prohibited when plainly audible inside another persons residence with doors and windows closed :
  - Between 10:00 pm and 7 am; and
  - Between 1:00 am and 7:00 am on weekends and holidays when the residence is in a mixed use area and sound is coming from a nonresidential use
  - Subject to max. decibel levels at all other times and in nonresidential areas.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### “PEOPLE NOISE”

#### Issues

- Should the plainly audible standard in residential areas begin at 11:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 pm on weekends and the day before a holiday?
- Should the plainly audible standard in mixed use areas begin at midnight instead of 1:00 am?

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### DOG PARKS

#### Current Proposal

- Dog parks can be used and not be subject to the noise ordinance:
  - Between 7:00 am and dusk on weekdays; and
  - Between 9:00 am and dusk on weekends and the day before a holiday
  - Use of dog parks is prohibited the rest of the time

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### DOG PARKS

#### Issue

- Should dog park hours on the weekends and holidays begin at 8:00 am instead of 9:00 am?

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### OPERATION OF POWER LAWN EQUIPMENT (Including Golf Courses)

#### Current Proposal

- Permitted without any restrictions between 7:00 am and 9:00 pm; and when located more than 100 yards from a residence, permitted beginning at 6:00 am.
- Prohibited at all other times.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

## OPERATION OF POWER LAWN EQUIPMENT

### (Including Golf Courses)

#### Issues

- Should golf course lawn maintenance (except leaf blowers) be permitted to start at 5:30 am when located more than 50 yards from a residence, and to start at 7:00 am when located less than 50 yards from a residence?
- If the answer above is yes, should the 100 yard distance for the 6 am start time be reduced to 50 yards?

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION

#### Current Proposal

- Outdoor trash collection is prohibited in residential districts and/or within 100 yards of a residence between 9:00 pm and 6:00 am
- All other trash collection is not subject to the Noise Ordinance.

# Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment

## New Chapter 108.1 of the County Code

### TRASH COLLECTION

#### Issue

- Should outdoor trash collection in residential districts and/or within 100 yards of a residence be prohibited until 9:00 am on the weekends and holidays?

# Proposed Maximum Sound Levels

Use and Zoning District Classification	Time of Day	Continuous Sound (dBA)	Impulse Sound (dB)
Residential Areas (as defined herein) in Residential Districts	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.	60	100
Residential Areas (as defined herein) in Residential Districts	10 p.m. to 7 a.m.	55	80
Non-Residential Areas in Residential Districts	All	60	100
Mixed Use Area (as defined herein)	All	65	100
Commercial Districts	All	65	100
Industrial Districts	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.	72	120
Industrial Districts	10 p.m. to 7 a.m.	65	100

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### MAXIMUM SOUND LEVELS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

#### Issue

- Should the maximum allowable sound level for all uses in the residential districts be 55 dBA at all times, rather than 60 dBA during the day?