

Environmental Protection Commission

Chapter 15, Article V

NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE

Comprehensive Review Work Session

March 27, 2024



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Scope of Work
- Schedule
- Summary





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| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| Painful Acoustic Trauma | 140 | Shotgun blast |
| | 130 | Jet engine 100 feet away |
| | 120 | Rock concert |
| Extremely Loud | 110 | Car horn, snowblower |
| | 100 | Blow dryer, subway, helicopter, chainsaw |
| | 90 | Motorcycle, lawn mower, convertible ride on highway |
| Very Loud | 80 | Factory, noisy restaurant, vacuum, screaming child |
| Loud | 70 | Car, alarm clock, city traffic |
| | 60 | Conversation, dishwasher |
| Moderate | 50 | Moderate rainfall |
| Faint | 40 | Refrigerator |
| | 30 | Whisper, library |
| | 20 | Watch ticking |
| | dB levels | |



Background

Noise Pollution Control Ordinance Overview

- **Orange County's Noise Pollution Control Ordinance (Chapter 15, Article V) prohibits noise that is either:**
 - More than the allowable sound level limits, or
 - Is plainly audible from a specified distance.
- **These standards apply to private or public property, whether commercial or residential, including rights-of-way.**



Background

Noise Pollution Control Ordinance Overview

■ Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

– Enforces sound emanating from commercial and industrial facilities under Section 15-182, Table 1:

Table 1: Code Standard - Sound assessed using sound level meter (dB=decibels) time weighted average:

| Land Use Category | Measurement | Time of Day | Sound Level Limit (dBA) |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Noise Sensitive Zone | Time Averaged (LEQ) | Any time | 55 dB |
| | Impulsive | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. | 60 dB |
| | Impulsive | 10:01 p.m. - 6:59 a.m. | Not allowed |
| Residential Area | Time Averaged (LEQ) | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. | 60 dB |
| | Time Averaged (LEQ) | 10:01 p.m. - 6:59 a.m. | 55 dB |
| | Impulsive | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. | 65 dB |
| | Impulsive | 10:01 p.m. - 6:59 a.m. | Not allowed |



Background

Noise Pollution Control Ordinance Overview

▪ Orange County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO)

– Enforces sound emanating from residential and commercial sites which may involve the consumption of alcohol or any suspected illegal activities and noise disturbance complaints involving "breach of the peace" as defined in F.S. § 877.03. Under Section 15-183, Table 2:

Table 2: Plainly Audible Procedure Time and Distance Requirements :

| Underlying Land Use Category (from which noise emanates) | Time of Day | Distance |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| Residential Area | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. | 500 feet or more |
| | 10:01 p.m.- 6:59 a.m. | 150 feet or more |
| Nonresidential Area | 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. | 500 feet or more |
| | 10:01 p.m. - 6:59 a.m. | 300 feet or more |



Background

Public Comments

Public Comments
and concerns
related to the
implementation
and effectiveness
of the Noise
Pollution Control
Ordinance, Chapter
15, Article V

- **Concern 1:** Citizen indicated noise ordinance and Orange County Sheriff Office's (OCSO) response is flawed
- **Concern 2:** Noise weaponized - legalized harassment
- **Concern 3:** Request distance be reduced for plainly audible standard



Background

BCC Comments/Complaints Received

County Commissioners complaints received

- **Concern 1:** Residential/Residential; music & unamplified human voices
- **Concern 2:** Commercial bar/Residential; noise from music and vibration from bass frequencies
- **Concern 3:** County more urbanized- code needs to be amended to be more effective. May be outdated



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Scope of Work

Process

▪ EPD contracted an environmental consulting firm to perform this evaluation

Key elements and objectives

- Assess the effectiveness, considering allowable sound level limits and the “plainly audible” standard
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses
- Compare with other noise regulations at different jurisdictions
- Evaluate a mechanism to address compatibility issues
- Conduct stakeholder engagement
- Provide recommendations and draft code revisions

Phased approach

- Phase 1:
 - Task 1 – Evaluation of Sound Level Limits and Plainly Audible Standard
 - Task 2 – Comparative Analysis of Noise Ordinances
- Phase 2:
 - Task 1 – Enforcement Procedures and Penalties
 - Task 2 – Code Exemptions and Variances
 - Task 3 – Legally Defensible Measurement for Plainly Audible Standard
 - Task 4 – Stakeholder Engagement
 - Task 5 – Recommendations and Draft Code Revisions



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Schedule

Timeline

- **Very aggressive timeline, consultants are committed to do their best to stay on track**
- **Phase 1 completed, consultant to submit a short report and jurisdictions comparison table**





Schedule Timeline

- EPD gathering input from stakeholders, launch an informative webpage
- Work sessions with Advisory Boards and BCC
- If BCC directs staff to change Code, present a final draft code to the Advisory Boards
- Schedule public hearing with BCC - Fall 2024.





Noise Pollution Control Ordinance Web Page

ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FLORIDA

Search our site [Browse Services](#)

RESIDENTS VISITORS BUSINESSES EMPLOYEES ABOUT US

You are here: [Environment](#) | [Noise](#)

NOISE Pollution Control Ordinance

Chapter 15 Article V

NOISE DISTURBANCE RESOURCES

- Make a Complaint
- Breach of Peace FL Statute
- Contact your Municipality
- Noise Pollution Control Ordinance

GET INVOLVED: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

- Get Involved
- Policy Studies
- Noise Measurement Standards Explained
- Current Noise Pollution Control Ordinance
- Draft Ordinance
- Read Stakeholder Comments

How can we assist you?

2024 Noise Code Updates - Get Involved

Report/Resolve a Noise Issue

2024 Noise Code Updates – Get Involved

Recently, several residents expressed concerns regarding the implementation and effectiveness of Orange County's Noise Pollution Control Ordinance, including existing noise standards and enforcement response. We need your input to help propose noise policy changes to the Board of County Commissioners in late 2024.

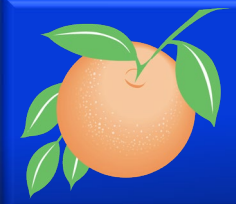
We Want To Hear From You!

[Share an Idea](#)
[Attend a Meeting](#)

Attend a Meeting
(Information is Subject to Change)

| Event | Date, Time & Location | Details & Resources |
|--|--|---|
| Environmental Protection Commission Public Hearing | March 27, 2024 at 6:30 a.m. Orange County EPD, 3165 McCrory Place, 32603 | Find meeting documents on the County Calendar |

<https://www.ocfl.net/noise>



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Technical Study
- Schedule
- **Summary**



Summary

- **Comments or suggestions that EPC can offer at this time**
- **No action is requested from EPC at this time**