

ORDINANCE NO. 5395

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 5 (NOISE CONTROL) of Title 11 (HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SANITARY REGULATIONS) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Chapter 5 of Title 11 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in underline as follows:

**CHAPTER 5 - Noise Control**

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**Sec. 11-5-2 - Definitions.**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

- (1) *Aircraft*. Any device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air, engaged in carrying persons or property.
- (2) *Acoustics*. The science of sound including its generation, propagation, measurement and physiological and psychological effects.
- (3) *Ambient noise*. The all encompassing noise associated with a given environment, being usually a composite of sounds from many sources, near and far.
- (4) *A-weighted sound level [dB(A)]*. A quantity, in decibels read from a sound level meter, that is switched to the weighting network labeled "A." The A-weighted network shall be as specified under the most recent specifications of the American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, N.Y. (ANSI).
- (5) *Center frequency*. For acoustic measurement, the center frequency of an octave band which is the geometric mean of the upper and lower frequency limits of the band.
- (6) *Commercial use area*. ~~The area within 200 feet of all boundaries of any property producing noise or, where such property is a railroad, the area within 200 feet perpendicular to the centerline of the railroad track at the source of the noise, when the predominant use of the properties in that area is for commercial purposes.~~ Any property used for the sale of goods or services, such as dining establishments, motor vehicle services, warehouse and distribution facilities, retail services, banks, office buildings, multi-purpose buildings that house more than one occupation, commercial condominiums for retail or wholesale use, non-public recreation facilities, entertainment facilities, hotels, and motels.
- (7) *Construction*. Any or all activity necessary or incidental to the erection, demolition, assembling, altering, installing or equipping of buildings, public or private highways, roads, railroads, premises, parks, utility lines including any lines in already constructed tunnels, or other property, including land clearing, grading, excavating and filling.
- (8) *Construction device*. Any device designed and intended for use in construction including, but not limited to any air compressors, backhoes, concrete vibrators, cranes (derrick), cranes (mobile), dozers (track and wheel), generators, graders, loaders (track and wheel), mixers,

pavement breakers, pavers, pile drivers, power hoists, rock drills, rock crushers, rollers, scrapers, and shovels.

- (9) *Continuous noise*. Noise whose level remains essentially constant without interruption or break.
- (10) *Decibel (dB)*. A unit of sound magnitude equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the sound pressure being measured to a reference sound pressure of 20 micronewtons per square meter or 0.0002 microbars, abbreviated "dB."
- (11) *Director*. The director of the department transportation and environmental services of the City of Alexandria or his duly authorized representative.
- (12) *Emergency signal device*. Any gong, bell, siren, whistle or any horn or any similar device the use of which is permitted on authorized vehicles or which are mounted on poles, buildings, towers or other supports.
- (13) *Emergency work*. Work made necessary to restore property to a safe and working condition following a public calamity, or work required to protect persons or property from imminent danger.
- (14) *Engineer*. The noise pollution specialist designated or appointed by the director.
- (15) *Exhaust system*. A system which removes and transports air or gas from a device.
- (16) *Hertz*. A unit of measurement of frequency numerically equal to cycles per second.
- (17) *Impulsive noise*. A short burst of acoustical energy such as, but not limited to, that produced by weapon fire, punch press or drop hammer. A pressure time history of a single impulse includes a rapid rise to a maximum peak pressure followed by a somewhat slower decay, both occurring within one second.
- (18) *Industrial use area*. ~~The area within 200 feet of all boundaries of any property producing noise or, where such property is a railroad, the area within 200 feet perpendicular to the centerline of the railroad track at the source of the noise, when the predominant use of properties in that area is for industrial purposes.~~ Any property used for construction, repair, trade or manufacturing, production, assembly or processing of finished or partially finished products from raw materials or fabricated parts on such a large scale that capital and labor are significantly involved, and includes any office or other accommodation on the same property, the use of which is incidental to such activity, or utility and transit facility uses.
- (18.1) *Institutional use area*. Any property that is operated by a government, nonprofit, or quasi-public use or institution, such as a library, public or private school, religious institution, hospital, convalescent home, nursing home, continuum of care facility, or municipally owned or operated building, structure, or land used for public purposes.
- (19) *Internal combustion engine*. A device for the production of energy by means of combustion under pressure.
- (20) *Microbar*. Unit of pressure commonly used in acoustics and equal to one dyne per square centimeter or one-tenth (0.1) Newtons per square meter.
- (21) *Motorcycle*. Every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and any four wheeled vehicle weighing less than 500 pounds and equipped with an engine of less than six horsepower.
- (22) *Motorized construction device*. Any construction device which is a motor vehicle.
- (23) *Motor vehicle*. Every device in, upon or by which any person or thing is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway which is self-propelled or designed for self-propulsion, except devices used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

- (24) *Muffler*. An apparatus generally consisting of but not limited to a series of chambers or baffles for the purpose of transmitting gases while reducing sound level.
- (25) *Newton*. A unit of pressure. The force required to accelerate one kilogram of mass at one meter per second squared.
- (26) *Noise*. A steady-state or impulsive sound or sounds occurring on either a continuous or intermittent basis.
- (27) *Noise level*. See sound pressure level.
- (28) *Octave band*. An interval in the audible range of sound that has an upper frequency numerically exactly twice that of its lower frequency.
- (29) *Owner*. Owner shall have no connotations other than that customarily assigned to the term "person," but shall include bodies politic and corporate, associations, partnerships, personal representatives, trustees and committees, as well as individuals.
- (30) *Person*. Any individual, corporation, cooperative, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency, political subdivision of this state or any legal successor, representative, agent or agency of the foregoing.
- (30.1) *Plainly audible*. Sound that can be heard by the unaided human ear.
- (31) *Power equipment*. Motorized or engine driven equipment such as, but not limited to, powered saws or chain saws and powered hand tools including hydraulic and pneumatic hand tools. Does not include air or surface transportation vehicles, construction devices, sound signaling devices or power lawn and garden equipment.
- (32) *Power lawn and garden equipment*. Powered devices for care and maintenance of lawns and gardens, including but not limited to, edgers, garden tractors, hedge clippers, home tractors, lawn mowers, snow and leaf blowers, tillers, and trimmers.
- (33) *Property*. The smallest area owned or leased by the same person or persons.
- (34) *Rail rapid transit system*. A railroad used exclusively for local service in the transportation of passengers as a common carrier for hire together with the appurtenances, facilities and equipment thereof.
- (35) *Railroad*. All the rights-of-way of any common carrier operating a railroad, whether owned or operated under contract, agreement or lease.
- (36) *Residential use area*. ~~The area within 200 feet of all boundaries of any property producing noise or, where such property is a railroad, the area within 200 feet perpendicular to the centerline of the railroad track at the source of noise, when the predominant use of properties in that area is for residential purposes.~~ Any single- or multiple-unit structure, such as a house, townhouse, duplex, condominium, mobile home, or apartment, that is used primarily for residential purposes, but shall not include any hotel and motel.
- (37) *Slow meter response*. The dynamic response of a sound level meter, as specified under the most recent specification of the American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, N.Y. (ANSI) for sound level meters.
- (38) *Sound*. An auditory sensation evoked by alternating compression and expansion of air, or other medium, accompanied by changes in pressure, particle velocity or displacement.
- (39) *Sound level*. The weighted sound pressure level in decibels obtained by use of a sound level meter with a metering response (fast or slow) and A, B or C weighting networks as specified by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, N.Y. (ANSI).
- (40) *Sound level meter*. An instrument comprising a microphone, amplifier, and output meter, and frequency weighting networks, that is used for the measurement of sound levels in a

manner specified by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, N.Y. (ANSI), in its standards 1.4-1971 or latest revision.

- (41) *Sound pressure.* The difference between the barometric or average pressure and the instantaneous pressure created at a given point by a source of sound: measured in Newtons per square meter.
- (42) *Sound pressure level (in decibels).* 20 times the logarithm to the base of 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound being measured to a reference sound pressure of 20 micronewtons/m<sup>2</sup>(0.0002 microbars).
- (43) *Sound reproduction device.* A device intended primarily for the production or reproduction of sound including, but not limited to, any musical instrument, radio receiver, television, receiver, tape recorder, phonograph and sound amplifying system.
- (44) *Sound signal device.* A device designed to produce a sound signal when operated, including but not limited to, any klaxon, air horn, whistle, bell, gong, siren, but not an emergency signal device.
- (45) *Warning device.* Sound signal devices used to alert and warn people.

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#### **Sec. 11-5-4 - Noises prohibited—enumeration.**

The following acts, among others, are declared to be unlawful, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:

- (1) Sound signaling device. The sounding of any sound signal device on any automobile, motorcycle or other vehicle on any street or public place of the city, except as a warning of danger or as provided in subsection 11-5-6. The sounding of any sound signal device attached to a motor vehicle, wagon or manually propelled cart, from which food or any other items are sold, more frequently than once every two minutes in any one city block and with a duration of more than 10 seconds for any single emission.
- (2) Sound reproduction device. The using or operating of any sound reproduction device radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound, or permitting the same to be played, used or operated in such manner as to be plainly audible across property boundaries at a distance of 50 feet from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located, except such operation by a public service company or the city to restore and maintain services provided by it.
- (3) ~~Reserved.~~ Noise in residential dwellings. Unless otherwise exempted or excepted by this chapter, any person that permits, operates, or causes any source of sound or sound generation to create a sound in his or her residential dwelling that is plainly audible in any other person's residential dwelling with the doors and windows closed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- (4) ~~Reserved.~~ Loading, unloading, opening boxes. The creation of noise in connection with loading or unloading any vehicle or opening or destruction of bales, boxes, crates, or containers, that is plainly audible by persons in any office or residence with the doors and windows closed, across property boundaries at a distance of 50 feet from the source of the noise, except as provided by section 11-5-7 of this chapter. The outdoor loading or unloading of trucks within 500 feet of a residential dwelling between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited.

- (5) ~~Reserved. Construction or repairing of a dwelling when the activity is being conducted by an owner or occupant and the homeowner is not acting as the general contractor or working for commercial purposes. Construction or the operation or permitting the operation of construction devise and power equipment in or around any dwelling when the activity is being conducted by an owner or occupant and the homeowner is not acting as the general contractor or working for commercial purpose shall be prohibited during the hours listed in subsection (16), Table II below.~~
- (6) Reserved.
- (7) Exhausts. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device pursuant to Virginia Code § 46.2-1049.
- (8) Reserved.
- (9) Reserved.
- (10) Construction or repairing of buildings, streets, walks, railways, sewers, utility lines, etc. The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair, and any and all activity necessary or incidental thereto, of any building, except ~~a dwelling house when the activity is being conducted by an owner or occupant or agent thereof and not for profit~~ as subject to subsection (5) above, any street, walk, railway, sewer, utility line or other construction other than between the hours listed in Table I, except in case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety or to restore and maintain public service and then only with a permit from the city manager, which permit may be granted for a period not to exceed six days while the necessity continues and which permit may be renewed for periods of six days while the necessity continues. If the city manager should determine that the public health and safety will not be impaired by any erection, demolition, alteration or repair and if he shall further determine that failure to permit erection, demolition, alteration or repair during such hours would result in loss or inconvenience to any party in interest, he may after consultation with the director grant permission for the work to be done within the hours prohibited in Table I, upon application being made at the time the permit for the work is awarded or during the progress of the work.
- (11) Reserved.
- (12) Reserved.
- (13) Reserved.
- (14) Reserved.
- (15) Construction devices and power equipment. The operation or permitting the operation during the hours prohibited in Table I of any construction device or power equipment unless permitted in accordance with section 11-5-7 of this chapter.

<b>TABLE I</b>		
	<b>Prohibited Hours</b>	
<b>Day</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
Monday through Friday	7:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	All Hours	

Holidays in Sec. 11-5-5(a)(5)a.	
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(16) Power lawn and garden equipment. The operation or permitting the operation during the times listed in Table II of any power lawn or garden equipment.

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<b>TABLE II</b>		
	<b>Prohibited Hours</b>	
<b>Day</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
_____		
Monday through Friday	7:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays as listed in Sec. 11-5-5 (a)(5)a.	9:00 a.m.	9:00 p.m.
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(17) Ventilation and air conditioning. The operation or permitting the operation of ventilation systems and air conditioning systems whose components, air ducts and vent opening may be installed on the roof or ground, in windows or walls the use of which exceeds the noise levels in Table III.

(18) Trash collection. No person shall operate or permit the operation of any refuse collection motor vehicle for collection of solid waste except as permitted by title 5, chapter 1 of the city code.

(19) Pile driving. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this chapter, no person shall operate, and no person shall permit the operation by any employee, independent contractor or other person of, any pile driving equipment, except between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday. The city manager is authorized, in his discretion, to grant relief from the provisions of this section, under the procedures set forth in section 11-5-7. In deciding whether to grant such relief, the city manager shall consider (i) the location at which pile driving is proposed to be conducted, (ii) its proximity to residential areas, business districts, public parks, recreation facilities, historic areas and tourist destinations, (iii) the availability and cost of alternative methods of construction, (iv) the mitigation measures available or proposed, (v) the impact upon the construction project, and upon the public, and (vi) such additional factors as the manager determines may be relevant to avoid injury or danger to the welfare of residents, business employees and patrons, park patrons, students, tourists and other visitors to the city. For purposes of this subsection, pile driving shall mean the driving of piles into the earth through the use of a gravity- or pneumatic-driven hammer or similar device or mechanism, and person shall include any state, or agency, instrumentality or contractor of a state, in addition to the meaning defined in section 11-5-2(30).

**Sec. 11-5-4.1 - ~~Same—central business district~~ Noises prohibited - Noise in public areas.**

- (a) Notwithstanding any conflicting provision of this chapter or other law, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in, or to suffer or permit on or with property under such person's control, any sound generation, as defined in this section, in or on any public or private street, sidewalk or alley, any public park, marina or open space, or any private outdoor property that is open to the public for commercial or recreational purposes, ~~within the central business district established by section 8-300(A) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance,~~ except as is permitted by this section.
- (b) "Sound generation" shall mean any conduct, activity or operation, whether human, mechanical, electronic or other, and whether continuous, intermittent or sporadic, and whether stationary, ambulatory or from a vehicle, which produces or generates sound in excess of the volume levels, and for a duration of time greater than the duration, specified in this section.
- (c) Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday, no sound generation shall result in sound having a volume of 75 dB(A) or more, at a distance greater than 10 feet from the place at which the sound is being generated or produced, for an aggregate duration of time greater than 60 seconds in any one hour period or be plainly audible above the background noise level to a person of normal hearing acuity at a distance greater than 50 feet from the place at which the sound is being generated or produced.
- (d) Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., no sound generation shall exceed a volume of 65 dB(A) at a distance greater than 10 feet from the place at which the sound is being generated or produced, for an aggregate duration of 60 seconds between such hours or be plainly audible above the background noise level to a person of normal hearing acuity at a distance greater than 50 feet from the place at which the sound is being generated or produced.
- (e) This section shall not apply to any sound generation which occurs:
  - (1) as part of a city-sponsored festival or event;
  - (2) at a designated performance area within a public park, marina or open space in conformity with regulations promulgated by the city manager or the director of parks, recreation and cultural activities;
  - (3) in conformity with regulations promulgated by the city manager for the use of market square;
  - (4) under a special permit, displayed at the place of sound generation, issued by the city manager pursuant to section 11-5-7; or
  - (5) on private property pursuant to a special use permit, displayed at the place of sound generation, approved by the city council under section 11-500 of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance.
- (g) This section shall be enforced by the director, the chief of police, the director of citizen assistance, the director of parks, recreation and cultural activities within any public park, marina or open space, and the director of general services within market square, and by their respective designees.
- (h) As used in this section, "background noise level" means all sound sources impacting at the place of measurement, excluding the specific source that is suspected of violating this section.
- (i) A violation under the section may be proved by either or both:
  - (1) Testimony or other evidence that the sound generation was plainly audible above the background noise level at the distance from the source, and for the duration of time, specified in subsections (c) or (d); or

- (2) Testimony or other evidence that the sound generation equaled or exceeded the sound level, at the distance from the source, and for the duration of time, specified in subsections (c) or (d), as measured with a sound level meter, maintained in good working order, and having an accuracy specification of 2 dB at 114 dBSPL (sound pressure level) or better, and using the A weighting network of such meter. The measurement of sound level under this section, made with such meter, need not comply with the provisions of section 11-5-5.

**Sec. 11-5-5 – ~~Same Noises prohibited~~—decibel provisions.**

- (a) Classification of use areas: residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional.
- (1) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, ~~on or after July 1, 1977~~, it shall be unlawful to project a sound or noise beyond the boundaries of the property from which such noise emanates which exceeds any of the limiting noise spectra set forth in Table III of this subsection which are applicable to that property.
- a. For the purposes of this section, the applicable limiting noise spectra is based on the use of the property where the noise is generated.
- b. For the purposes of this section, the limiting noise spectra set forth in Table III of this subsection for industrial uses ~~areas~~ shall be deemed to be the limiting noise spectra applicable to any property ~~which that~~ is not ~~located in~~ a residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional use ~~area~~.
- (2) The measurement of sound or noise pursuant to this subsection shall be as follows:
- a. The measurement of sound or noise shall be made with sound level meters type 1 or type 2 and meeting the standards prescribed by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., New York, New York. The instrument shall be maintained in calibration and good working order. Octave band corrections may be employed in meeting the response specification. A calibration shall be made of the system before and after the noise measurements. Measurements recorded shall be taken so as to provide a proper representation of the noise source. The microphone during measurement shall be positioned so as not to create any unnatural enhancement or diminution of the measured noise. A windscreen for the microphone shall be used when required. Other than for instantaneous sound levels or for stated lengths of time, such as eight-hour or 24-hour averages, the following procedure will be used. With a continuous noise source in operation, a minimum of nine sound level readings will be taken at least 20 seconds apart excluding any readings taken ~~if~~ there is significant noise from extraneous sources. If the noise source is periodic or cyclical in nature, nine readings at least 20 seconds apart will be made only during those parts of the cycle when the source is operating. No readings will be made during the parts of the cycle when the source is not operating. The median of the valid readings will be used as the average sound level.
- b. The slow meter response of the sound level meter shall be used to determine that the maximum permissible dB(A) readings or the octave band levels set forth in Table III below have not been exceeded.
- c. Unless otherwise specified the measurement shall be made at the boundary of the property on which such noise is generated, or perceived, as appropriate not less than three and one-half (3½) feet above ground.
- d. Compliance with the noise limits is to be maintained at any elevation at the boundary.
- e. Measurements in multi-family dwellings or mixed-use structures. In a structure used as a multi-family dwelling or a mixed-use structure, measurements to determine sound levels shall be taken from indoor common areas within or outside the structure or from other units within

the structure, when requested to do so by the occupant in possession and control thereof. Such measurement shall be taken at a point at least four feet from the wall, ceiling or floor nearest the noise source, with doors and windows to the receiving area closed.

(3) The limits hereinabove referred to shall be in accordance with the following table:

<b>TABLE III</b>			
<b>MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVELS</b>			
<b>Use Areas</b>	<b>Maximum dB(A)</b>	<b>Octave Band</b>	
		<b>Center Frequency Hertz-(HZ)</b>	<b>Levels dB</b>
Residential	55	31.5	70
		63	69
		125	64
		250	59
		500	53
		1,000	47
		2,000	42
		4,000	38
		8,000	35
<u>Commercial</u> <u>Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>31.5</u>	<u>80</u>
		<u>63</u>	<u>79</u>
		<u>125</u>	<u>74</u>
		<u>250</u>	<u>69</u>
		<u>500</u>	<u>63</u>
		<u>1,000</u>	<u>57</u>
		<u>2,000</u>	<u>52</u>
		<u>4,000</u>	<u>48</u>
		<u>8,000</u>	<u>45</u>
Commercial <u>Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.</u>	60	31.5	75
		63	74
		125	69
		250	64

		500	58
		1,000	52
		2,000	47
		4,000	43
		8,000	40
Industrial	70	31.5	85
		63	84
		125	79
		250	74
		500	68
		1,000	62
		2,000	57
		4,000	53
		8,000	50
Institutional	60	31.5	75
		63	74
		125	69
		250	64
		500	58
		1,000	52
		2,000	47
		4,000	43
		8,000	40

(4) The maximum permissible sound levels established in Table III for application to the boundaries of a property shall not applied to construction sites. Construction site noise shall be regulated by section 11-5-4(b)(10) and 11-5-4(b)(15) and other appropriate sections of this chapter.

(5) a. Days which shall have the same restrictions as Sundays are New Year's Day (the first day of January), Memorial Day (the last Monday in May). Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (the first Monday in September). Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November), and Christmas Day (December 25).

b. The provisions of section 11-5-5(a)(5)a. of this chapter shall not be applicable to any noise which is emitted without interruption for 24 hours every day for at least seven consecutive days, when the noise varies in intensity by less than three decibels in a 24-hour period; provided, that a permit for the emission of such noise has been issued by the city manager. Any permit shall be issued pursuant to section 11-5-7 of this chapter. Any permit issued by

the city manager pursuant to this section, shall be valid until such time as the city manager, after giving notice in writing, to the applicants for the permit at least 30 days in advance, shall modify or revoke the permit.

- (b) ~~Power equipment and power lawn and garden equipment. It shall be unlawful to operate in the city any equipment which creates a noise or sound that exceeds the noise level limits set out in Table IV below. This equipment shall not be used during hours prohibited by either section 11-5-4(b)(15) or section 11-5-4(b)(16), as applicable.~~

<del>TABLE IV</del>	
<del>LIMITING NOISE LEVELS FOR POWER LAWN OR GARDEN EQUIPMENT AND POWER EQUIPMENT</del>	
<del>====</del>	
<del>Maximum Permissible Noise Level</del>	<del>75 dB(A)</del>
<del>Location of Measurements</del>	<del>Property Line of Noise Source</del>
<del>Measurement Procedure</del>	<del>As stated in sec. 11-5-5(a)(2)a.</del>

**Sec. 11-5-6 - Exemptions.**

The following uses and activities shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

- (1) Noises of safety signals, warning devices, and emergency pressure relief valves.
- (2) Noises resulting from any authorized police, fire or emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency.
- (3) Noises resulting from emergency work as defined in section 11-5-2.
- (4) Any other noise resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefor has been granted by the city in accordance with section 11-5-7.
- (5) Any aircraft operated in conformity with, or pursuant to federal law, federal air regulations, and air traffic control instruction used pursuant to and within the duly adopted federal air regulations. Any aircraft operating under technical difficulties, in any kind of distress, under emergency orders of air traffic control or being operated pursuant to and subsequent to the declaration of an emergency under federal air regulations.
- (6) Any railroad operated in conformity with, or pursuant to federal law or regulations.
- (7) Work necessary to restore and maintain services provided by public service companies, the rail rapid transit system and the city.
- (8) Noises resulting from the operation of rail rapid transit systems.
- (9) Interstate motor carriers, and medium and heavy trucks manufactured and operated in accordance with federal noise standards. Such vehicles may not be operated with a defective muffler or with tampered or missing noise control devices.
- (10) Noise resulting from the operation of transit in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Sec. 11-5-7 - Application for special permit.**

- (a) Applications for a permit for relief on the basis of undue hardship from a noise level or time limits designated in this chapter may be made to the city manager or his duly authorized representative. Any permit granted by the city manager hereunder shall contain all conditions upon which the permit has been granted and shall specify a reasonable time that the permit shall be effective. The city manager, or his duly authorized representative, shall grant the relief as applied for if he finds:
  - (1) that additional time is necessary for the applicant to alter or modify his activity or operation to comply with this chapter; or
  - (2) the activity, operation or noise source will be of temporary duration, or cannot be done in a manner that would comply with other subsections of this section, and that no other reasonable alternative is available to the applicant.
- (b) The city manager, or his duly authorized representative, may prescribe any conditions or requirements he deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the community or the surrounding neighborhood.
- (c) Any permit issued pursuant to this chapter shall be valid no longer than three years from the date it is issued. Upon the expiration of any such permit no new permit may be issued except in compliance with all the provisions of this section.

**Sec. 11-5-8 - Administration.**

- (a) The director shall be charged with administering and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.
- (b) The city manager shall, upon the request of the director, allocate such resources of the police department as the city manager shall deem necessary to assist the director in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.
- (b.1) The fire marshal, deputy fire marshals, new construction inspectors and existing structures inspectors within the code enforcement bureau shall have concurrent jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this chapter relating to construction, construction devices and power equipment as defined in section 11-5-2 of this Code.
- (c) The engineer and the director shall whenever possible coordinate their activities to the end that noise pollution in the city is regulated, prevented, abated and controlled.
- (d) In addition to any other powers vested in him, the director may, subject to the availability of funds:
  - (1) conduct studies, investigations and research relating to noise pollution and its prevention, abatement and control;
  - (2) issue such orders as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter and enforce the same by all appropriate administrative and judicial proceedings;
  - (3) hold hearings relating to any aspect of or matter in the administration of this chapter;
  - (4) secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative and operational services, including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise;
  - (5) prepare and develop a comprehensive plan or plans for the prevention, abatement and control of noise pollution;
  - (6) advise, consult and cooperate with other local governmental units, agencies of the state, industries, interstate or interlocal agencies and the federal government, and with interested persons and groups;

- (7) review those matters having a bearing upon noise pollution referred by other agencies (such as planning, zoning, building and fire departments) and make reports, including recommendations, to the referring agencies with respect thereto;
  - (8) collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to noise pollution;
  - (9) encourage voluntary cooperation by persons or affected groups to achieve the purposes of this chapter;
  - (10) do any and all acts which may be necessary for the successful prosecution of the policy of this chapter and such other acts as may be specifically enumerated herein;
  - (11) prepare annually a report to the city council on progress in implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the noise control code and make recommendations to the council of any changes in the noise control code he deems desirable;
  - (12) may coordinate the noise control activities of all agencies and departments of the city government and advise, consult, cooperate and coordinate noise control activities with other local governmental units, state agencies, interstate and interlocal agencies, the federal government, and with interested persons and groups with respect to the provisions of this chapter;
  - (13) may make recommendations to the city council for changes to this chapter to make it consistent with all preemptive state and federal legislation.
- (e) The city manager shall submit to the city council recommended noise design limits to be incorporated in city planning and zoning and the design and construction of buildings, streets and highways and in the routing and rerouting of motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

**Sec. 11-5-9 - Inspections.**

Any duly authorized officer, employee, or representative of the engineer or the director may, when granted permission by the owner, or some person with reasonably apparent authority to act for the owner, enter and inspect any property, premises or place at any reasonable time for the purpose of investigating or testing either an actual or suspected source of noise pollution, or of ascertaining the state of compliance with the chapter and regulations enforced pursuant thereto.

**Sec. 11-5-10 - Enforcement procedure.**

- (a) Whenever the director has reason to believe that a violation of any provision of this chapter or a rule or regulation issued pursuant thereto has occurred, he may give notice of the violation to the owner failing to comply with this chapter, ordering him to take such corrective measures as are necessary within a reasonable time thereafter. The notice and order shall be in writing and shall be served personally upon the person to whom directed, or if he be not found, by mailing a copy thereof by certified mail to his usual place of abode and conspicuously posting, a copy at the premises affected by notice and order, if any.
- (b) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the director from making efforts to obtain voluntary compliance through warning, conference or any other appropriate means.

**Sec. 11-5-11 - Emergency procedure.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other provision of law, if the director finds that any owner is causing or contributing to noise pollution and that the causing or contributing to noise pollution creates an emergency which requires immediate action to protect the public health or safety, the director shall order the owner to reduce or discontinue

immediately the causing or contributing to noise pollution and such order shall be complied with immediately. The order shall be deemed properly served if a copy thereof is delivered personally, or if the owner involved is not found, by mailing a copy thereof by certified mail to the owner involved at the premises involved or his business or residence address, if known, and by posting a copy thereof in a conspicuous place in or about the premises affected.

**Sec. 11-5-12 - Penalties.**

- (a) Civil violation. Any person who commits, permits, assists in or attempts any violation of this chapter, whether by act or omission, shall be liable for a civil violation as follows:
  - (1) The first violation of this chapter by such person shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of ~~\$50~~100.
  - (2) The second violation of this chapter committed by such person within seven days of the first violation shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of ~~\$100~~250.
  - (3) The third and any subsequent violation of this chapter committed by such person within 14 days of the first violation shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.
- (b) Each hour of a continued violation shall constitute a separate offense under this chapter.
- (c) Procedures.
  - (1) Civil Violations.
    - (i) If an authorized enforcement officer determines that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the officer may cause a notice of the violation to be served on any or all persons committing, permitting, assisting in or attempting such violation.
    - (ii) The notice shall provide that the person charged with a civil violation may elect to make an appearance in person, or in writing by mail, to the treasurer of the city, and admit liability for or plead no contest to the violation, abate the violation, and pay the civil penalty established for the violation, all within the time period fixed in the notice.
    - (iii) If a person charged with a civil violation does not elect to admit liability or plead no contest, and abate the violation, the violation shall be tried in the Alexandria General District Court upon a warrant in debt or motion for judgment, with the same right of appeal as provided for civil actions at law.
    - (iv) In the event the violation exceeds the jurisdictional limits of the General District Court, the violation shall be tried in the Alexandria Circuit Court.
    - (v) A finding of admission of liability or a plea of no contest to a civil violation shall not be deemed evidence of a criminal violation for any purpose.
    - (vi) A notice of civil violation as provided in this section, may be issued or had, notwithstanding that no prior notice of violation and ordering of corrective measures as provided in section 11-5-10 has been given.
    - (vii) The provisions for judicial review contained in section 11-5-16 shall have no application to notices of violation issued or made under the provisions of this section.
    - (viii) Any person operating or controlling a noise source shall be guilty of any violation caused by it. If the person operating or controlling the noise source cannot be identified, any owner, tenant, resident, or manager physically present on the property where the noise source is located may be charged if the circumstances establish their dominion and control over the noise source.

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Section 2. That Chapter 5 of Title 11 as amended pursuant to Section 1 of this ordinance, be, and the same hereby is, reordained as part of the City of Alexandria City Code.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

JUSTIN M. WILSON  
Mayor

Final Passage: 12/18/2021