

Chapter 167. NOISE

[HISTORY: Adopted by the City Council of the City of Trenton 9-7-1967 as § 3-2 of the Revised General Ordinances. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Barking dogs — See Ch. 21, § 21-7.

Peace and good order — See Ch. 201.

Nuisances — See Ch. 171.

§ 167-1. Prohibited noises.

It is hereby declared to be a nuisance and it shall be unlawful for any person to make, cause or suffer or permit to be made or caused upon any premises owned, occupied or controlled by him/her or upon any public street, alley or thoroughfare in the City of Trenton, any unnecessary noises or sounds by means of the human voice, or by any other means or methods which are physically annoying to persons, or which are so harsh or so prolonged or unnatural, or unusual in their use, time and place as to occasion physical discomfort, or which are injurious to the lives, health, peace and comfort of the inhabitants of the City, or any number thereof.

§ 167-2. Loud and unnecessary noises enumerated.

[Amended 2-5-2004 by Ord. No. 04-6]

The following acts are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in violation of this chapter, but this enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive: A.

Radios, televisions, phonographs. The playing of any radio receiving set, television, musical instrument, phonograph or other machine or device for the production or reproduction of sound with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing of the person so playing, using or operating such instrument or device and any persons who are voluntary listeners thereto, or in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of neighboring inhabitants.

B.

Loudspeakers, amplifiers for advertising. The playing, for advertising purposes or for the purpose of attracting the attention of the passing public, of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, loudspeaker, sound amplifier or

other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound on the streets or public places of the City of Trenton or in any place where the sound therefrom is cast directly upon the streets or public places, or which is so placed and operated that the sound therefrom can be heard to the annoyance or inconvenience of travelers upon any street or public place or of persons in neighboring premises.

C.

Sound trucks. The playing, for advertising purposes or for any other purpose whatsoever, on or upon the public streets, alleys or thoroughfares in the City of Trenton, of any device known as a sound truck, loudspeaker or sound amplifier, or radio or phonograph with a loudspeaker or sound amplifier, or any other instrument known as a calliope, or any instrument of any kind or character which emits therefrom loud and raucous noises and is attached to and upon any vehicle operated or standing upon the streets or public places aforementioned. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit any official agency of the State of New Jersey or its political subdivisions from operating a sound truck for any official purpose, provided, however, that the agency desiring to operate such truck shall first notify the Police Director of the times and places of such proposed operation.

D.

Horns, signaling devices. The sounding of any horn or warning device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle, except when required by law or when necessary to give timely warning of impending danger to persons driving other vehicles or to persons upon the street; as well as the sounding of any horn or warning device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle which shall emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound, or for any unnecessary or unreasonable period of time.

E.

Exhausts. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary jet or internal combustion engine, or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.

F.

Vehicles and their loads. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, truck, or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded, or operated in such a manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise, especially on hill grades.

G.

Schools, courts, churches and hospitals. The creation of any excessive noise on any street or property adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while it is in use, which unreasonably interferes with the workings of such institution, or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in the hospital.

H.

Blowers. The operation of any noise-creating blower or power fan on any internal combustion engine, the operation of which causes noise due to the explosion of operating gases or fluids, unless the noise from such blower or fan is adequately muffled and such engine is equipped with a muffler device sufficient to deaden such noises.

I.

Lawn mowers and chain saws. The operation or use of any power lawn mower or other internal combustion landscaping equipment, including, but not limited to, leaf blowers, vacuums, and golf course maintenance equipment or chain saws between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

[Amended 5-20-2010 by Ord. No. 10-24]

J.

Miscellaneous night noises. When occurring in close proximity to residences between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., the warming up or idling of buses, trucks or tractors, and the unnecessary and repeated idling, acceleration and deceleration or starting and stopping of automobiles and motorcycles.

K.

Animals. The keeping of any animal which causes frequent or continued noise plainly audible beyond the property line which shall disturb any person in the vicinity.

§ 167-3. Violations and penalties.

Violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be punishable as provided in Chapter 1, Article III, General Penalty.