

ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 6A,
SECTION 6A-1 THROUGH SECTION 6A-10
OF THE ENFIELD TOWN CODE ENTITLED NOISE

ENFIELD CODE

Chapter 6A

NOISE

Sec. 6A-1. Declaration of policy

Excessive noise must be controlled by the town to protect, preserve and promote the public health, safety and welfare. The town council recognizes the fact that people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound and vibration that may jeopardize their health, safety or welfare.

Sec. 6A-2. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the following words and terms shall have the meanings hereinafter set forth:

Background noise shall mean noise which exists at a point as a result of the combination of many distant sources, individually indistinguishable. In statistical terms, it is the level which is exceeded ninety per cent (90%) of the time (L_{90}) in which the measurement is taken.

Business zone shall mean those areas so designated under the zoning ordinance of the town.

Chief of Police shall mean the duly appointed Chief of Police of the town or his designee.

Construction shall mean the assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, demolition, or site-preparation for or of public or private rights-of-way, buildings or other structures, utilities or property.

Day-time hours shall mean the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and the hours between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Decibel shall mean a unit of measurement of the sound level, the symbol for which is dB.

Emergency shall mean any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical trauma or property damage which demands immediate action.

Excessive noise shall mean any sound, the intensity of which exceeds the standards set forth in section 6A-6 of this chapter.

Impulse noise shall mean sound of short duration, usually less than one second, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay.

Intrusion alarm shall mean a device with an audible signal which, when activated, indicates intrusion by an unauthorized person.

Industrial zone shall mean those areas so designated under the zoning ordinance of the town.

L₉₀ shall mean the A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded ninety per cent (90%) of the time period during which measurement was made.

Motor vehicle shall mean a vehicle as defined in Connecticut General Statutes §14-1(47), Revision of 1958, as amended.

Nighttime hours shall mean the hours between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Sunday evening through Saturday morning, and between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. Saturday evening through Sunday morning.

Noise level shall mean a frequency weighted sound pressure level as measured with a sound level meter using the A-weighting network. The level so read is designated dBA.

Person shall mean any individual, firm, partnership, association, syndicate, company, trust, corporation, municipality, agency, or political or administrative subdivision of the state or other legal entity of any kind.

Premises shall mean any building, structure, land, or portion thereof, including all appurtenances, owned or controlled by a person.

Property maintenance equipment shall mean all engine or motor-powered tools and equipment used occasionally in the repair and upkeep of exterior property and including, but not limited to, lawn mowers, riding tractors, wood chippers, power saws, leaf blowers.

Public emergency sound signal shall mean a device either stationary or mobile, producing audible signal associated with a set of circumstances involving actual or imminent danger to persons or damage to property which demands immediate action.

Public facility maintenance shall mean all activity related to the clearing, cleaning, repair and upkeep of public roads, sidewalks, sewers, water mains, utilities, and publicly owned property.

Recreational vehicle shall mean any internal combustion engine powered vehicle which is being used for recreational purposes.

Residential zone shall mean those areas so designated under the zoning ordinance of the town.

Sound shall mean a transmission of energy through solid, liquid or gaseous media in the form of vibrations which constitute alterations in pressure or position of the particles in the medium and which, in air, evoke physiological sensations, including, but not limited to, an auditory response when impinging on the ear.

Sound level meter shall mean an instrument used to measure sound pressure levels. A sound level meter shall conform, as a minimum, to the American National Standards Institute's operational specifications for sound level meters ANSI S1.4-1983 (R 1997) (Type 1).

Sound pressure level shall mean twenty (20) times the logarithm to the base ten (10) of the ratio of the pressure of a sound to the reference pressure of twenty (20) micro Pascals, expressed in decibels (dB) units.

Town manager shall mean the duly appointed town manager of the town or his designee.

Sec. 6A-3. Exclusions

This chapter shall not apply to noise emitted by or related to:

- (a) Natural phenomena.
- (b) The unamplified sound made by any wild animal.
- (c) A bell or chime from any building clock, school or church.
- (d) A public emergency sound signal.
- (e) Warning devices required by OSHA or other state or federal safety regulations.
- (f) Farming equipment or farming activity.
- (g) An emergency.
- (h) Snow removal.

Sec. 6A-4. Exemptions

The following shall be exempt from this chapter subject to the special conditions noted:

- (a) Noise created by the operation of properly maintained and properly functioning property maintenance equipment during day-time hours.
- (b) Noise generated by any construction equipment operated during day-time hours.
- (c) Noise created by any recreational activities which are sanctioned by the town, including, but not limited to, parades, sporting events, concerts and firework displays. Any equipment related to such recreational activities shall be properly maintained and properly functioning.

- (d) Noise created by blasting provided that the blasting is conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. local time and provided that a permit for such blasting has been obtained from state or local authorities.
- (e) Noise created by refuse and solid waste collection, provided that such activity is conducted between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- (f) Noise created by a properly maintained and properly functioning fire or intrusion alarm which, from time of activation of the audible signal, emits noise for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) minutes when such alarm is attached to a vehicle or thirty (30) minutes when attached to any building or structure.
- (g) Noise created by public facility maintenance during day-time hours.

Sec. 6A-5. Noise level measurement procedures

For the purpose of determining noise levels as set forth in this chapter, and as set forth in Connecticut Regulations §22a-69-4, the following procedures shall be applicable:

- (a) A person conducting sound measurements shall have been trained in the techniques and principles of sound measuring equipment and instrumentation.
- (b) Instruments used to determine sound level measurements shall be sound level meters as defined in this chapter.
- (c) The following steps shall be taken when preparing to take sound level measurements:
 - (1) The instrument manufacturer's specific instructions for the preparation and use of the instrument shall be followed.
 - (2) Measurements to determine compliance with section 6A-6 of this chapter, in those cases where a receptor is an abutter to the emitter, shall be taken at a point that is located more or less one foot beyond the boundary of the emitter's premises and at a point within the receptor's premise. In those cases where the receptor is not an

abutter to the emitter, measurements to determine compliance with section 6A-6 of this chapter shall be taken at a point that is located more or less one foot within the boundary of the receptor's premises.

- (3) The person conducting the testing shall prepare a written report to include, but not necessarily be limited to, such information as date, time, location, observation of conditions of the environment such as identification of noise source, weather, traffic and other pertinent data.
- (d) The Zoning Enforcement Officer is charged with assisting in training efforts and with assisting emitters in their efforts to comply with the standards set forth herein.
- (e) The Director of Planning and Community Development and the Zoning Enforcement Officer are charged with the review of development proposals during the administrative review process to determine the potential for violation of this chapter and to assist potential emitters in their efforts to comply with the standards set forth herein.

Sec. 6A-6. Noise levels

(a) *Noise levels.* It shall be unlawful for any person to emit or cause to be emitted any noise beyond the boundaries of his premises in excess of the noise levels established in this chapter.

(b) *Noise level standards.* No person shall emit noise exceeding the levels stated herein.

ZONE IN WHICH RECEPTOR IS LOCATED

<i>Zone in Which Emitter is located</i>	<i>Industrial (dBA)</i>	<i>Business (dBA)</i>	<i>Residential Day-time hours (dBA)</i>	<i>Residential night-time hours (dBA)</i>
Industrial	70	66	61	51
Business	62	62	55	45
Residential	62	55	55	45

(c) *Background noise and impulse noise.*

- (1) In those individual cases where the background noise levels caused by sources not subject to this chapter exceed the standards contained herein, a source shall be considered to cause excessive noise if the noise emitted by such source exceeds the background noise levels by five (5) dBA, provided that no source subject to this chapter shall emit noise in excess of eighty (80) dBA at any time, and provided that this subsection shall not be interpreted as decreasing the noise level standards of this chapter.
- (2) No person shall cause or allow the emission of impulse noise in excess of eighty (80) dB peak sound pressure level during night-time hours.
- (3) No person shall cause or allow the emission of impulse noise in excess of one hundred (100) dB peak sound pressure level at any time.

(d) *Short Term Noise.* In measuring compliance with the Noise Level Standards, the following short term noise level excursions over the noise level standards established by this chapter shall be allowed, and measurements within these ranges of established standards shall constitute compliance therewith:

Allowable levels above standards (dBA)	Time period of such levels (minutes/hour)
3	15
6	7
8	5

(e) *Existing Noise Sources.* Existing noise sources constructed between January 1, 1960 and June 15, 1978 shall be provided a permanent five (5) dBA maximum noise level allowance over levels otherwise herein required regardless of subsequent changes in ownership or facility utilization processes at the location of the existing noise source. Existing noise sources constructed prior to 1960 shall be provided a permanent ten (10) dBA maximum noise level allowance over levels otherwise herein required regardless of subsequent changes in ownership or facility utilization processes at the location of the existing noise source.

(f) *Motor vehicle noise.*

- (1) All motor vehicles operated within the limits of the town shall be subject to the noise standards and decibel levels as set forth in the regulations of the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Section 14-80a-4a entitled "Maximum Permissible Noise Levels For Vehicles."
- (2) No sound amplifying devices on or within motor vehicles shall emit noise in excess of the noise levels as specified in this chapter.

(g) *Recreational vehicle noise.* No person shall create or cause to be created any unreasonably loud or disturbing noise due to the operation of a recreational vehicle. A noise shall be deemed to be unreasonably loud and a violation of this chapter when the noise so generated exceeds the noise level standards in this chapter.

(h) *Existing state law.* Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the powers of the police to enforce applicable state laws, including, but not limited to, breach of the peace, motor vehicle noise, or recreational vehicle noise.

Sec. 6A-7. Enforcement

Violations of this chapter shall be enforced by the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police may develop procedures consistent with this chapter, including, but not limited to: metering, training, and issuance of violation notices.

Sec. 6A-8. Violations and penalties

- (a) Any person found to be in violation of any sections of this chapter for the first time, who is willing to correct the violation, shall be given a two-week grace period in which to correct the violation. The Chief of Police shall refer the person found to be in violation to the Director of Planning and Community Development and the Zoning Enforcement Officer to receive direction for corrective action. Provided all necessary applications related to the corrective action are filed with the relevant land use agency within the two-week grace period, the Town Manager may extend the grace period pending the review of the applications.
- (b) Any person found to be in violation of any sections of this chapter: after the grace period referred to in subsection (a); or, who is unwilling to correct the

violation; or, for the second or successive times, shall be fined in an amount not to exceed \$50 per day that such violation continues. The Chief of Police shall continue to meter the violation.

- (c) In the event that the violation is not corrected and/or the fine is not paid, the Chief of Police may request that the Town Attorney determine appropriate legal or equitable action or proceeding before the Superior Court against the person or persons responsible for the violation. The remedies sought may include, but are not limited to, judicial enforcement of the fines and/or injunctive relief.

Sec. 6A-9. Variance

- (a) Any person residing or doing business in Enfield may apply to the town manager for a variance from one or more of the provisions of this chapter which are more stringent than the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's regulations for the control of noise, provided that the applicant supplies all of the following information to the town manager at least twenty (20) days prior to the start of said activity:
 - (1) The location and nature of activity.
 - (2) The time period and hours of operation of said activity.
 - (3) The nature and intensity of the noise that will be generated.
 - (4) Any other information required by the town manager.
- (b) No variance from these regulations shall be issued unless it has been demonstrated that:
 - (1) The proposed activity will not violate any provisions of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection regulations.
 - (2) The noise levels generated by the proposed activity will not constitute a danger to the public health.
 - (3) Compliance with this chapter constitutes an unreasonable hardship on the applicant.

- (c) The application for variance shall be reviewed and either approved or rejected at least five (5) days prior to the proposed start of said activity. The approval or rejection shall be in writing and shall state the condition of approval, if any, or the reasons for rejection.

Sec. 6A-10. Severability

All provisions of the zoning regulations of the town, which are more stringent than those set forth herein, shall remain in force. If, for any reason, any work, clause, paragraph or section of this chapter shall be held to make the same unconstitutional or superceded by any state law or regulation, this chapter shall not thereby be invalidated and the remainder of the chapter shall continue in effect.

Proposed By: By Request

Approved By: Scott A. Shanley, Town Manager

Reviewed By: Christopher W. Bromson, Town Attorney

Proposal Introduced to Council: December 21, 1998

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