



CITY OF MENIFEE

SUBJECT: Noise Regulations from Residential, Commercial, and Multi-Family Properties Ordinance

MEETING DATE: October 6, 2021

TO: Mayor and City Council

PREPARED BY: David Gutierrez, Police Captain

REVIEWED BY: Pat Walsh, Police Chief

APPROVED BY: Armando G. Villa, City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Introduce an Ordinance establishing regulations for noise from residential, commercial, and multi-family properties.

DISCUSSION

Currently, the City's only regulatory noise Ordinance is within Title 9, Planning and Zoning, 9.215.060 (Noise Control Standards). Although Planning and Zoning Ordinance 9.215.060 makes reference to audio equipment operation between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., it does not address other noises typically associated with loud parties. The proposed Ordinance would be adopted as Title 11, Peace, Morals and Safety, Chapter 11.22 and would regulate any unreasonable or unnecessary noise from residential, commercial, and multi-family properties. The new Ordinance contains language that would allow the Police Department to hold individuals responsible criminally or administratively for repeat responses to calls for service involving unreasonable and unnecessary noise levels.

Nothing within the proposed Ordinance conflicts with Title 9, Chapter and Section 9.215.060.

Understandably, certain noise levels must be tolerated by all citizens in order for normal functions of urban life to continue. However, excessive, unnecessary, and/or annoying noise is subject to regulation.

Between July 1, 2020, and August 18, 2021, Meniffee PD officers have responded to 1,473 calls for service associated to unnecessary and unreasonable noise complaints. Of the 1,473 calls for service, 217 calls were at repeat locations. All noise calls are handled by patrol officers.

The Meniffee Police Department wishes to be proactive in minimizing loud noise complaint calls. The average time spent responding to and handling loud noise calls varies greatly. It is dependent

upon the location and number of suspected individuals on scene. Often times, loud noise complaint calls involve alcohol, and some involve uncooperative individuals requiring several officers to respond. A minimum of two officers are required for all noise complaint calls. In addition to the fiscal impact, there is also lost officer productivity.

The purpose of this Ordinance is designed to minimize unnecessary burden to police resources caused by an excessive amount of unreasonable and unnecessary noise complaint calls. This will be done through a documented warning followed by administrative citations if repeat calls for service occur within three years. The Multiple Response Fee would be \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation, and \$500 for the third violation and any subsequent violations. The fee structure is consistent with Municipal Code § 1.03.050.

Sound Level Standards

Land Use	Time Requirements	Allowed Exterior Noise Level (dBA)
Residential Properties	10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	45 65
Commercial Properties	10:00 pm to 8:00 am 8:00 am to 10:00 pm	45 65
Multi-Family Residential	10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	40 55

Based on Staff's research, the above sound level standards are comparable to other surrounding jurisdictions.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

Regular City Business

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Noise Ordinance