



## FACT SHEET ORANGE COUNTY NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE

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### **History:**

- The Orange County Noise Control Ordinance (Chapter 15 - Article V) regulates excessive and unnecessary noise in unincorporated Orange County.
- At the Orange County Board of County Commissioners meeting on June 24, 2014, the Commission unanimously approved changes to the Noise Control Ordinance long championed by Commissioner S. Scott Boyd.
- Commissioner Boyd worked on Orange County's Noise Control Ordinance beginning in 2009 in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's office, County Administration, and the Environmental Protection Division (EPD).
- The goal of the initiative was to explore additional enforcement options for residential noise complaints, as the original ordinance was geared towards noise emanating from commercial properties.
- The amended Noise Control Ordinance went into effect Oct. 1, 2014.

### **Changes to the Ordinance:**

- The amended ordinance provides recourse for noise disturbances more common to residential areas.
- One of the most notable changes in the ordinance is the mechanism to determine if noise is "plainly audible," which is investigated and enforced by the Orange County Sheriff's Office.
- Investigation of noise disturbances may fall under EPD or the Sheriff's Office.
  - EPD is authorized to investigate noise disturbances emanating from residential property under construction or a nonresidential property that exceeds the allowable noise limits.
  - The plainly audible standard allows the Sheriff's Office to investigate complaints which may involve the consumption of alcohol, any suspected illegal activities and noise disturbance involving "breach of the peace."
- Enforcement provisions may be handled by a notice of violation, civil citation or criminal citation.
- Civil citation fees have been increased for violations as follows:
  - A fine of \$200 for the first offense
  - A fine of \$400 for the second offense
  - The third and each subsequent violation of the same provision requires a mandatory court appearance and may be punishable by a fine of \$500
- The Orange County Sheriff's Office may arrest and file criminal charges based on the violation or the number of times a violation occurs.

### **Reporting a Disturbance:**

- To report noise from a residential property under construction or a non residential property that does not serve alcohol, please contact: Environmental Protection Division at 407-836-1468.
- Noise disturbances coming from another residential property or an alcohol-serving establishment, please contact: Orange County Sheriff's Office at 407-836-4357
- Noise disturbances occurring within city limits are handled by the appropriate municipal authority.
- Read the new [Noise Control Ordinance](#).