



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**CONFERENCE MEETING**

**#24-0360**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

**DATE:** November 7, 2024

**TITLE:** Amendments to Chapter 17 – Noise Control Ordinance - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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At the October 17, 2023, City Commission conference meeting, Siebein Associates, Inc. presented their findings on the Soundscape and Noise Ordinance Study. This presentation outlined strategies for establishing standards for sound measurement and provided recommendations for detecting and enforcing compliance with reasonable maximum permissible sound limits. Additionally, staff shared feedback from the Sound Committee as provided by the Noise Control Advisory Committee (NCAC). Following the presentation, the Commission instructed staff to conduct a 60-day follow-up to guide the drafting of proposed amendments to Chapter 17 - Noise Control of the Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

At the December 19, 2023, Conference meeting, staff provided the City Commission with an outline of the NCAC's comments and recommendations. At the close of this presentation, the City Commission directed staff to initiate a 90-day noise pilot study. The outcomes of this pilot study were subsequently shared with the NCAC to facilitate discussion and gather feedback for potential amendment suggestions and can be found in Exhibits 1 and 2.

The proposed ordinance amendment includes the following changes:

- The inclusion of dBC limits in Table 1 to account for low frequency sounds such as bass. Seibein Associates specified adding 10 decibels for the dBC weighting because “There is a 10 to12 dB difference between the dBA and dBC levels for most “typical sounds” in an urban environment. *Most sounds do not have the same dBA and dBC levels.*”
- The specification that proactive noise measurements are taken five (5) feet from the building, structure, or establishment, and that the maximum permissible sound level limit for the source of the sound shall apply.
  - Note: The Noise Control Advisory Committee disagrees with the inclusion of this language.

- An amendment to allow complaint-initiated measurements in Special Entertainment Districts to be taken at the property line of the complainant.
- The inclusion of the following language for non-amplified sound emanating from residential properties:
  - Residential use: Sound shall not be plainly audible for a period of one (1) minute or longer at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet or more when measured from the source property line between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. daily.
  - Sound shall not be plainly audible for a period of one (1) minute or longer at a distance of fifty (50) feet or more when measured from the source property line between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – 90-Day Noise Pilot Data Summary

Exhibit 2 – 90-Day Noise Study Readings

Exhibit 3 – Draft Ordinance

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