

# Noise Control Advisory Committee Ordinance Amendment Recommendations

# NOISE IN THE CITY

DSD Staff Presentation in August 2021 outlined challenges addressing noise complaints

## **Challenges:**

- Sensitivity to sound versus the allowed decibel limits
- Providing a real-time response to violations
- Amplified noise

## **Potential Solutions:**

- Hire a consultant for a noise study and review of Chapter 17
- Amend the ordinance to address issues and recommendations of the consultant
- Implement technology to allow live monitoring of sound in “hot spots”

## **Results:**

- Formation of the Noise Control Advisory Committee
- Hiring a noise consultant
- Purchasing a stationary noise meter and improved handheld meters
- Implementing the Nighttime Enforcement team

# OVERVIEW OF NCAC & CONSULTANT WORK

- After September 2021 – City staff, including representatives from the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division, the Police Department, and the City Attorney's Office began to hold meetings with Noise Committee.
- September 2022 – City hired a consultant (Sieben & Associates) for a noise study and review of Chapter 17
  - Soundscape Study Included
    - Measure and qualify baseline ambient sonic conditions
    - Identify sounds of concern to stakeholders, time of concern, and their impressions of possible solutions.
    - Evaluate program activities associated with acoustical conflicts – uses, proximity, demographics, general construction types (relative to acoustical isolation), buffer spaces, and street activity.
- October 2023 - presented noise consultant findings to City Commission
  - List of potential action items
  - List of immediate, near term, and long-term priorities

**Result:** Commission directed a 60-day follow up for the committee and staff to provide direction for drafting revisions to Chapter 17

# OVERVIEW OF THE NCAC'S DELIVERABLES

- December 2023 City Staff presentation to the commission
  - Noise Control Advisory Committee Comments
  - Noise Control Advisory Committee Recommendations

**Results:** Commission directed a 90-day noise study be done of potential changes to the ordinance by the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division

The findings of the noise study were presented to the Noise Control Advisory Committee in March 2024, leading to further discussions with staff, the city attorney's office, and residents through community outreach.

# NCAC and STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The inclusion of dBC limits in Table I
2. 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.
  - a) Note: Noise Control Advisory Committee members disagree with this section.
3. An amendment to allow complaint-initiated measurements in Special Entertainment Districts to be taken at the property line of the complainant.
4. The inclusion of language for non-amplified sound emanating from residential properties to a standard of plainly audible

# NEXT STEPS

- Revision of Chapter 17 – Noise Control
- Six Month Nonpenalized Enforcement from Effective Date
- Community Forum and Business Outreach
- Report or Memorandum to Commission on Effectiveness of New Ordinance

## QUESTIONS