

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-7( )**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 7, HEALTH AND SAFETY, ARTICLE 1, NOISE, OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE, VIRGINIA

BE IT ORDAINED By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Albemarle, Virginia, that Chapter 7 Health and Safety, Article 1, Noise, is hereby amended and reordained as follows:

**By Amending:**

Sec. 7-105 Specific acts prohibited.

**Chapter 7. Health and Safety**

**Article 1. Noise**

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**Sec. 7-105 Specific acts prohibited.**

It is unlawful for any person to produce sound from the following acts that meets or exceeds the applicable sound levels:

- A. *Motor vehicle or motorcycle operation.* The sound is produced by: (i) the absence of a muffler and exhaust system conforming to Virginia Code §§ 46.2-1047 and 46.2-1049 on a motor vehicle or a motorcycle; (ii) jackrabbit starts, spinning tires, racing engines, or other similar acts in a motor vehicle or on a motorcycle; or (iii) a refrigeration unit mounted on a motor vehicle, and either:
  - 1. *On a street or on public property.* The motor vehicle or motorcycle is operated or parked on a street or on public property, and the sound is audible from a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle or motorcycle; or
  - 2. *On private property.* The motor vehicle or motorcycle is operated or parked on private property, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the motor vehicle or motorcycle is located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- B. *Sound producing or reproducing devices.* The sound is produced by any device intended primarily for the production or reproduction of sound and either:
  - 1. *Device within or on a motor vehicle on a street or on public property.* The device is within or on a motor vehicle that is operated or parked on a street or on public property, and the sound is audible from a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle;
  - 2. *Device within or on a motor vehicle on private property.* The device is within or on a motor vehicle that is operated or parked on private property, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the motor vehicle is located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room;
  - 3. *Device within a place of public entertainment.* The device is located within a place of public entertainment, and the sound is audible for a duration of five continuous minutes or more, without an interruption of the sound for 30 or more consecutive seconds during the five minute period, within any one hour period: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the place of public entertainment is located; or (ii) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 7:00 a.m. the following day from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room;
  - 4. *Device within a dwelling unit.* The device is located within a dwelling unit and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the dwelling unit ~~motor vehicle~~ is located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room;

5. *Device producing outdoor amplified music or serving as an outdoor public address system.* The device is located to produce outdoor amplified music, to serve as an outdoor public address system, or both, including any such device used in conjunction with an agricultural activity, and the sound is not otherwise regulated under subsections (B)(1) through (4) or exempt pursuant to County Code § 7-106, and the sound is audible from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room; or
  6. *Device in other locations.* The device is located other than within or on a motor vehicle, a place of public entertainment, a dwelling unit, or is not producing a sound subject to subsection (B)(5), and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the device is located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- C. *Off-road vehicles.* The sound is produced by an off-road vehicle operated in a location other than on a street, where the off-road vehicle use is not an authorized primary use under County Code Chapter 18, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the off-road vehicle is located; or (ii) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 7:00 a.m. the following day from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- D. *Proximity to sound-sensitive institutions.* The sound is produced on any street adjacent to any school, hospital, nursing home, or court (hereinafter, collectively referred to as "institutions"), provided that conspicuous signs are posted and visible on the street(s) adjacent to the institution stating that the street is adjacent to a school, hospital, nursing home, or court and either:
1. *Schools and courts.* The sound is audible from inside the school building or the court between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. when the school or court is in session; or
  2. *Hospitals and nursing homes.* The sound is audible from inside the hospital or nursing home.
- E. *Construction, demolition, or maintenance activities.* Either of the following:
1. Sound produced by construction, demolition, or maintenance activities between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 7:00 a.m. the following day, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the activities are located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
  2. Sound produced by construction, demolition, or maintenance activities related to a public facility, a public use, or a public improvement between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 7:00 a.m. the following day, but which is produced by a contractor of a governmental entity, or a subcontractor of such a contractor, either off-site or outside of the project limits when the project limits are established in writing by the governmental entity, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the activities are located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- F. *Silvicultural activities.* Sound produced during lawfully permitted bona fide silvicultural activities including, but not limited to logging activities, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 6:00 a.m. the following day or at any time if the silvicultural activities, including logging activities, are determined to not be lawfully permitted bona fide silvicultural activities, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the activities are located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- G. *Solid waste collection.* Sound produced by the collection of solid waste between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 6:00 a.m. the following day within a residential zoning district established pursuant to County Code Chapter 18, and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 5:00 a.m. the following day within any non-residential zoning district established pursuant to County Code Chapter 18, including any mixed-use site, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the solid waste collection activity; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.
- H. *Yard maintenance activities.* Sound produced by routine yard maintenance activities including, but not limited to, mowing, trimming, clipping, leaf blowing, and snow blowing between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. within a residential zoning district established pursuant to County Code Chapter 18, and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. any day and 6:00 a.m. the following day within any

non-residential zoning district established pursuant to County Code Chapter 18, including any mixed-use site, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the activities are located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room.

- I. *Loud explosive devices used to repel birds.* Sound produced by loud explosive devices, including air cannons and carbide cannons, that are designed to produce high intensity sound percussions for the purpose of repelling birds, and the sound is audible: (i) from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the parcel on which the device is located; or (ii) from inside a dwelling unit or hotel room. The use of a loud explosive device is not an agricultural activity exempt from this Article pursuant to County Code § 7-106.

(Ord. 98-A(1), 8-5-98; Ord. 09-7(3), 12-2-09; Ord. 13-7(2) 9-4-13; Ord. 16-7(1), 5-4-16; Ord. 20-7(1), 3-18-20, effective 5-1-20; Ord. 21-7(2), 9-1-21; Ord. 23-7 ( ), 8-2-23)

State law reference(s)—Va. Code §§ 15.2-918, 15.2-1200.