

| Major Policy Changes to Existing Noise Ordinance<br>Options for Council Consideration                                       |   |  |  |
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| Policy Consideration  | Why?  | Option 1   | Option 2   |
| 1. Replace “ <b>predominant use</b> ” with “property use” of the noise source in determining noise limit at property lines? | <p>The current provision for determining the applicable maximum permissible decibel limit for a property that generates sound is unclear and difficult to apply: “that of the predominant use of the properties within 200 feet of all boundaries of any property use producing noise.”</p> <p>This often cannot be determined on site, often requires use of maps.</p> | Maintain “predominant use” but include a definition for predominant use that clearly delineates how this term is calculated and applied to a specific location.  | <p>Use the property use of noise source to determine noise standard at property lines.</p> <p>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential</li> <li>• Commercial</li> <li>• Institutional, or</li> <li>• Industrial</li> </ul> |
| 2. Establish new “ <b>institutional</b> ” property use category for churches, schools, hospitals and government buildings?  | There is presently no property use category that captures these land uses. There is no noise standard for these types of properties.  | <p>1a. Adopt this property use category having the same decibel limit as the commercial property category.</p> <p>Institutional properties often support activity and equipment that generate sounds greater than that of residential use, but often similar to that of commercial properties.</p> <p>1b. Adopt this property use category but set decibel limit independent of commercial category.</p> | Introduce category in conjunction with keeping predominant use.  |

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| 3. Adopt “ <b>plainly audible</b> ” standard for night-time (11 pm to 7 am) residential property use?             | The current standard for this property use is 55 dB(A) any time of day. This requires use of a noise meter to determine compliance. Presently the non-business hours enforcing staff, APD officers, are not equipped with noise meters.  | Maintain present standard. If nighttime calls are reported, APD will request voluntary compliance and/or DECC will forward to T&ES for administrative action the next business day. | Adopt policy change to allow compliance determination at night without use of a noise meter.<br><br>This language is used within other jurisdiction’s ordinances within Virginia.   |
| 4. Increase <b>daytime</b> (7 am to 11 pm) decibel <b>standard</b> for <b>commercial</b> use from 60 to 65 dB(A)? | There is one all day maximum permissible decibel level for the commercial use areas: 60 dBA.   | Maintain the present standard: same standard of 60 dB(A).   | 2a. Raise the daytime maximum permissible decibel level:<br>Day: 65 dB(A) (7 a.m. to 11 p.m.)<br>Night: 60 dB (A) (11.p.m to 7 a.m.)<br>2b. Apply city-wide<br>2c. Apply only to identified Commercial areas ( Old Town, Mt Vernon Ave, and/or other, etc.)<br>2d. Adopt but set specific time and day. |
| 5. Allow <b>SUP noise conditions</b> to be less restrictive than noise ordinance?                                 | Presently, SUP conditions may not be less stringent than the noise ordinance with the exception that the Central Business District provisions do not apply when an SUP has been issued.<br><br>This option allows for the consideration of increased commercial activity where there are no increased impacts to residential property use areas. | Maintain the present standard.  | Adopt policy change. A SUP may include conditions that are less stringent than the noise ordinance, in certain circumstances that are reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission and Council.   |

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| <p>6. Expand a modified version of the “<b>Noise in public places</b> - Central Business District” provisions to the entire city?</p> <p>This would mean any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public or private street</li> <li>• Sidewalk or alley</li> <li>• Public Parks</li> </ul> | <p>Currently, there are two standards for noise in public places. One provision applies to the Central Business District, (established by section 8-300(A) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance):</p> <p>Area between Prince and Queen St and between the Potomac River to S. Peyton, Harvard and N. West St.</p> <p><u>All Days:</u></p> <p>Distance measured: at 10 feet from where the sound is generated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.:</u><br/>Max. Permissible Decibel: 75 dB(A)</li> <li>• <u>11 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.:</u><br/>Max. Permissible Decibel: 65 dB(A).</li> </ul> <p>Another provision applies to the remainder of the City and prohibits unreasonably loud or unnecessary noise, but the standard must be amended due to legal requirements.</p> | <p>Adopt policy change and have a uniform noise-in-public places provisions that applies throughout the City.</p> | <p>Apply the Central Business District noise-in-public -places provisions to specific zones within the City known to or expected to increase in commercial activities such as Mt. Vernon Ave., Carlyle, East/West Eisenhower and update the noise-in-public places provision that applies to the remainder of the City with another standard.</p> |

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| <p>ALSO:</p> <p>Enforcement by City Departments other than Police for non-business hours (nights and weekends).</p> | <p><u>Business Hours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T&amp;ES/OEQ is primary responder to noise complaints</li> <li>Some require coordination from other departments, e.g., Code and DECC</li> <li>PZ addresses noise issues covered by an SUP condition</li> </ul> <p><u>Non-Business hours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APD, particularly if a public safety concern</li> <li>Do not use noise meters</li> </ul> | <p><u>Non-business hours enforcement</u></p> <p>Options 1 and 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the status quo.</li> <li>Reduce APD involvement to only those incidents that involve public safety.</li> </ol> <p>All others are referred by DECC to appropriate dept. for next business day administrative action.</p> | <p><u>Non-business hours Enforcement:</u></p> <p>Noise and/or Multi-tasked Inspector(s):</p> <p>Options 3 (one inspector) and 4 (2 or more) inspectors.</p> <p>Primary Responder(s) or Joint Response with APD support depending on type of noise complaints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained and equipped for all noise responses:</li> <li>Noise meters</li> <li>Perform other functions/ inspections/ tasks as determined</li> </ul> |