

December 7, 1993  
Jonesboro, LA

The Jackson Parish Police Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, December 7, 1993 with the following members present: Mrs. Shirley Walsworth, Ernest Conn, David McManus, Nathaniel Zeno, Jr., Leslie Thompson, Dr. Charles Garrett, and Troy L. Smith. Also present: Douglas Stokes, Assistant District Attorney.

Motion Mrs. Walsworth seconded Mr. Conn to adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE BANNING EXCESSIVE NOISE OR AMPLIFIED  
SOUNDS FROM VEHICLES OR OTHER SOURCES IN JACKSON  
PARISH, LOUISIANA AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF.

WHEREAS the making and creation of excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noises as a result of amplified sound has created a serious problem for Jackson Parish residents; and

WHEREAS the making, creation or maintenance of such excessively loud noises which are prolonged, unusual and unnatural in their time, place and use affect and are a detriment to public health, comfort, convenience, safety and welfare of the residents of Jackson Parish,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the Police Jury of the Parish of Jackson, State of Louisiana, in regular session, duly convened, hereby bans excessive noise or amplified sounds from vehicles or other sources as herein described:

Article I. General Provisions

Section 1. Definitions: As used in this ordinance, unless the context otherwise clearly indicates, the words and phrases used in this chapter are defined as follows:

- (a) "A" band level. "A" band level shall mean the total sound level of all noise as measured with a sound level meter using the "A" weighing network. The unit is the dbA.
- (b) Ambient noise. Ambient noise shall mean the all-encompassing noise associated with a given environment, usually being a composite of sounds with many sources near and far.
- (c) Band-pressure level. Band-pressure level of a sound for a specified frequency band shall mean the sound pressure level for the sound contained within the restricted band.
- (d) Cycle. Cycle shall mean the complete sequence of values of a periodic quantity which occurs during a period.
- (e) Decibel. Decibel (db) shall mean a unit of level which denotes the ratio between two quantities which are proportional to power, the number of decibels corresponding to the ratio of two amount.
- (f) "Fluctuating noise". Fluctuating noise shall mean the sound pressure level of a fluctuating noise which varies more than 6 dbA during the period of observation when measured with the slow meter characteristic of a sound level meter.

- (g) Frequency. Frequency of a function periodic in time shall mean the reciprocal of the primitive period. The unit is the cycle per unit time and shall be specified.
- (h) Microbar. Microbar shall mean a unit of pressure commonly used in acoustics and is equal to one dyne per square centimeter.
- (i) Periodic quantity. Period of a periodic quantity shall mean the smallest increment of time for which the function repeats itself.
- (j) Sound analyzer. Sound analyzer shall mean a device for measuring the band pressure level or pressure spectrum level of a sound as a function frequency.
- (k) Sound level meter. Sound level meter shall mean an instrument including a microphone, an amplifier, an output meter, and frequency weighing networks for the measurement of noise and sound levels in a specified manner.
- (l) Sound-pressure level. Sound-pressure level in decibels of a sound shall mean twenty times the logarithm to the base ten of the ration of the pressure of this sound to the reference pressure, which reference pressure shall be explicitly stated.
- (m) Spectrum. Spectrum of a function of time shall mean a description of its resolution into components, each of a different frequency.
- (n) Motor vehicles. Motor vehicle shall include, but not be limited to, mini-bikes, go-carts, all-terrain vehicles, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and boats.
- (o) Sound-amplifying equipment. Sound-amplifying equipment shall mean any machine or device for the amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound. Sound-amplifying equipment shall not include standard automobile radios when used and heard only by the occupants of the vehicle in which the radio is installed. Sound-amplifying equipment, as used in this ordinance, shall not include warning devices or authorized emergency vehicles or horns or other warning devices or any vehicle used for traffic safety purposes.

## Article II. Regulations

Section 1: the use of sound-amplifying equipment shall be subject to the following regulations:

- (a) No sound emanating from sound-amplifying equipment shall exceed fifteen dbA above ambient as measured at any property line.
- (b) In an event, the volume of sound shall be so controlled that it will not be unreasonably loud, raucous, jarring, disturbing, or a nuisance to reasonable persons or normal sensitiveness with the area of audibility.
- (c) Noise sound pressure levels shall be measured at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet from the noise source.

## Article III. Radios, Stereos, Television Sets, Phonographs and Similar Devices

- (a) Use restricted. It shall be unlawful for any person to use, operate or permit to be played any radio receiving set, musical instrument, television, phonograph, from other machine or device for the production or reproduction of sound in such a manner as to cause to be made or continued any unnecessary noise as heard with measurement.

(b) Prima facie violation. The operation of such set, instrument, television, phonograph, machine or device at any time in such a manner as to be plainly audible at either the property line, or twenty-five (25) feet in the case of a vehicle on public rights-of-way, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

(c) This section shall not apply to any person who is participating in a school band or in a parade which has been authorized of the parish or municipality.

#### Article IV. Maximum Permissible Sound Levels

(a) The maximum permissible sound pressure level of any continuous source shall be as follows:

##### Sound Pressure Level Limit

DISTRICT	dbA
Residential	55
Commercial	60
Industrial	80

Sound pressure levels in excess of those established for the districts of the parish shall constitute prima facie evidence that such sound is an unnecessary noise.

#### Article V. Excessive Noise from Vehicles

(a) No person may operate or occupy a motor vehicle on a street, highway, alley, parking lot, or driveway where the vehicle's sound system is plainly audible twenty-five (25) or more feet away from the vehicle.

(b) This section shall not apply to noise devices, bands or other musical devices used in any public parade or precession which has been authorized by the parish or a municipality or to vehicles owned and operated by the parish for public safety.

#### Article VI. Penalty

Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense or imprisoned in the parish jail for ten (10) days, or both.

#### Article VII. Sovereignty

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Police Jury of Jackson Parish, Louisiana that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or application and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

This ordinance was unanimously adopted.