

**Chapter 106****NOISE****Sections:****106-1 THROUGH 106-4 (RESERVED)****106-5 DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND POLICY****106-6 DEFINITIONS****106-7 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT****106-8 PROHIBITED NOISE****106-9 MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVELS FROM NOISE SOURCES****106-10 OPERATOR OF SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICES IN PLACE OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT OR ASSEMBLY****106-11 USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES****106-12 PROHIBITED NOISE FROM MOTOR VEHICLE SOUND SYSTEM****106-13 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER****106-14 EXCEPTIONS FROM CHAPTER****106-15 BUILDING, UTILITY, ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS****106-16 TESTING OF METERING DEVICES****106-17 PENALTIES****106-18 SEPARABILITY**

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal 3-11-85. 106-1 through 106-4 were repealed by Ordinance No. 12-04 on 10-11-04. Amendments noted where applicable.

**106-1 THROUGH 106-4 (RESERVED)**

(Ord. No. 12-04 Repealed 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-5 DECLARATION OF FINDINGS AND POLICY**

The Town Council hereby finds and declares that excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public health, welfare, peace, safety, and the quality of life; that a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated; that the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound that may jeopardize the public health, welfare, peace, and safety or degrade the quality of life; and that it is the policy of the Town of Front Royal to prevent such excessive sound.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-6 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this subsection.

A. **A-WEIGHTED SOUND LEVEL.** The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting network. The level so read is designated dB(a) or dBA.

B. **DAYTIME** The local time of day between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M.

C. **DECIBEL (dB).** A unit for measuring the volume of a sound equal to twenty (20) times the logarithm to the base ten (10) of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is twenty (20) micropascals (twenty micronewtons per square meter).

D. **dBA** shall mean the sound pressure level as measured on a sound meter set to slow response to the A-weighted scale to approximate the frequency response of the human auditory system.

E. **EMERGENCY WORK** shall mean work made necessary to restore property to a safe condition following a public calamity, or work required to protect persons or property from immediate exposure to danger, including work performed by public service companies when emergency inspection, repair of facilities or restoration of services is required for the immediate health, safety or welfare of the community.

F. **NIGHTTIME.** The local time between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.

G. **NOISE** shall mean any sound which may cause or tend to cause an adverse psychological or physiological effect on human beings.

H. **NOISE SOURCE** shall mean any equipment, motor vehicle, motorcycle or facility, fixed or movable, capable of emitting sound beyond the property boundary of the property on which the equipment is used, but not including motor vehicles or motorcycles operated on public rights-of-way.

I. **SOUND.** An oscillation in pressure, particle displacement, particle velocity or other physical parameter in a medium with internal forces that causes compression and rarefaction of that medium. The description of sound may include any characteristic of such sound including duration, intensity, and frequency.

J. **SOUND LEVEL.** The weighted sound pressure level obtained by the use of an approved sound level meter and the A-frequency weighting network, as specified in American National Standards Institute specifications for sound level meters.

K. **SOUND LEVEL METER** shall mean an instrument to measure sound pressure levels which shall meet or exceed performance standards for a "type two" meter as specified by the American National Standards Institute.

L. **SOUND PRESSURE** shall mean the instantaneous difference between the actual pressure and the average or barometric pressure at a given point in space.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-7 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

The noise control program established by this section shall be enforced and administered by the Chief of Police with the assistance of other Town departments as required.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-8 PROHIBITED NOISE**

A. Generally. It shall be unlawful for any person to create any unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise. Noise of such character, intensity and duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any person or unreasonably to disturb or annoy the quiet, comfort or repose of any person is hereby prohibited.

B. Specific Acts as Noise Disturbances.

The following acts are declared to be noise disturbances in violation of this Chapter, provided that the acts so specified shall not be deemed to be an exclusive enumeration of those acts which may constitute a noise disturbance under Section 106-8(A):

1. Operating or causing to be operated any equipment used in construction, repair, alteration or demolition work on buildings, structures, streets, alleys, drainage or public utility systems or parts thereof, and appurtenances thereto in the outdoors between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day, except as provided in Section 106-15.
2. Repairing, rebuilding or modifying any motor vehicle or other mechanical device in residential use districts between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day.
3. The collection of trash or refuse in residential use districts between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day.
4. Loading or unloading trucks in the outdoors within one hundred (100) yards of a residence between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day; provided that this subsection shall not apply to any business that has been in operation at its current location since prior to January 1, 1980.

(Ord. No. 01-06 amended 1-23-06-Effective Upon Passage)

5. Sounding the horn or warning device of a vehicle, except when necessary as a warning during the operation of the vehicle. Sounding of such horn or other device more than once every two (2) minutes in any one town block and with a duration of more than five (5) seconds for any single emission shall be *prima face* evidence of violation of this section.
6. Operating or permitting the use or operation of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, television, phonograph or any other device for the production of sound, between the hours of

10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. the following day, in such a manner as to be plainly audible across property boundaries or through partitions common to two (2) residences within a building

7. Operating or permitting the operation of any radio, tape player, compact disc player or other device for the production of sound on a public right-of-way or in a public place in such a way that the sound is plainly audible at a distance of fifty (50) feet from such device, whether or not the device is situated within a motor vehicle.

8. Owning, keeping, possessing or harboring any animal which frequently or habitually howls, barks, meows, squawks or makes such other noise as is plainly audible across property boundaries or through partitions common to two (2) residences within a building.

9. The use of any automobile, motorcycle or vehicle so out of repair, so loaded or operated in such a manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noises.

10. The discharge of the exhaust of any internal combustion engine into the open air except through a device which will effectively prohibit loud and explosive noises.

**(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)**

#### **106-9 MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVELS FROM NOISE SOURCES**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, or permit to be operated, any noise source in such a manner that the noise source emits a sound pressure level which exceeds the limits set forth below when measured on property other than that on which the noise source is located. The category of applicable sound pressure limits shall be determined by the zoning district classification of the property on which the noise is produced. Property which has been specifically determined by the Planning Commission to be within an area designated on the Comprehensive Plan for industrial use shall be deemed to fall into the industrial classification for the purposes of this ordinance, even if the property has not yet been re-zoned.

**(Ord. 01-06 Amended 1-23-06-Effective Upon Passage)**

Land Use Designation Where Noise is Measured.	Maximum Allowed Noise in Daytime (in dBA)	Maximum Allowed Noise in Nighttime (in dBA)
Agricultural & Residential Zones, A-1,R-1,R1-A,R-2,R-3	60	50
Commercial Zones C-1, C-2, C-3	70	65
Industrial Zones 1-1,1-2	80	80

**(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)**

**106-10 OPERATOR OF SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICES IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT OR ASSEMBLY.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate, or permit to be operated, any loudspeaker or other device for the production of sound in any place of public entertainment or other place of public assembly which produces sound measure levels of ninety (90) dBA of greater at any point that is normally occupied by a person, unless conspicuous and legible signs are located outside such place, near the entrance, stating "WARNING, EXPOSURE TO SOUND ENVIRONMENT WITHIN MAY CAUSE HEARING IMPAIRMENT."

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-11 USE OF LOUDSPEAKERS FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate for commercial advertising purposes any loudspeaker or other like device or mechanism used to emit sound of any kind, which loudspeaker or other like device or mechanism is attached to or installed in any vehicle, when the vehicle is being driven, drawn, or parked along or upon the streets of the Town.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-12 PROHIBITED NOISE FROM MOTOR VEHICLE SOUND SYSTEM**

No person within the Town limits shall operate or permit the use or operation of any radio, tape player, compact disc player, or any other device which produces, reproduces, or amplifies sound in a motor vehicle, in such a manner that the sound can be heard more than fifty (50) feet from the motor vehicle.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-13 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER**

It shall be unlawful for a property owner knowingly to allow the creation of noise prohibited by this Chapter, within the boundaries of his or her property.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

**106-14 EXCEPTIONS FROM CHAPTER**

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the following activities:

1. The emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency or to the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work;
2. Noise caused by or arising out of activities related to repair, maintenance, replacement or alteration of public utility systems or parts thereof, public drainage systems or parts thereof, or streets and highways or parts thereof, and appurtenances thereto, where such activity is

reasonably necessary to further a public safety interest and/or to minimize disruption in the provision of public services, e.g., water, sewer and electric service; or

3. Parades, fireworks displays, and other organized public activities authorized by permit issued by an official of the Town.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

### **106-15 BUILDING, UTILITY, ROADCONSTRUCTION AND EXCAVATION OPERATIONS.**

A. The erection, including excavation, demolition, alteration or repair of any building in a residential or business district, the performance of any work on a public utility, the performance of any work relating to road construction, and any excavation work on January 1<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Day), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4<sup>th</sup> (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Day), or other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, is prohibited, except in cases of necessity in the interest, public health, safety and welfare, and then only with a permit from the Town Manager or his designee. This prohibition does not apply to Town employees or to contractors performing work in compliance with the terms and requirements of a Town contract.

B. When one of the regular holidays mentioned in Subsection (a) of this section falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be declared the holiday. When one of the regular holidays falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be declared the holiday.

C. Construction. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Chapter, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, construction, alteration or repair activities that are authorized by a valid Town permit shall be allowed if they meet at least one of the following noise limitations:

1. No individual piece of equipment shall produce a noise level exceeding 85 dB(A) at a distance of twenty-five (25) feet. If the device is housed within a structure on property, the measurement shall be made outside the structure at a distance as close to twenty-five (25) feet from the equipment as possible.

2. The noise level at any point outside of the property planes of the project shall not exceed 90 dBA.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

### **16-16 TESTING OF METERING DEVICES**

In order to implement and enforce this section effectively, the Chief of Police shall, within a reasonable time after the effective date of same, develop and promulgate standards and procedures for testing and validating sound level meters used in enforcement of this section.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

### **106-17 PENALTIES**

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter shall be deemed to be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

B. Each violation and/or day of violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

C. The imposition of one (1) penalty for any violation shall not excuse the violation or permit it to continue.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)

### **106-18 SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Chapter should be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 12-04 Added 10-11-04-Effective Upon Passage)