



Resident Information Sheet

Ordinance No. 2241 amending Chapter 10, Miscellaneous Provisions and Offenses, Sections 10-11 thru 10-18

The Alamo Heights Police Department has actively studied city codes from various jurisdictions in an effort to determine a means of definitive sound measurement in order to respond to noise complaints objectively so there is equity when enforcement becomes necessary. This study is in response to citizen concerns for noise intrusion and their desire for a peaceful neighborhood environment.

Going forward the police department will use sound level meters meeting the standards prescribed by the American National Standards Institute to measure the decibel (dBA) level of noise when a complaint is received. The decibel tolerances are divided into three groups, each having a unique decibel ceiling before determined to be a violation. These groups are as follows:

- Residential zoned properties – 63 decibels (dBA)
- Business zoned properties – 70 decibels (dBA)
- Any event requiring a “Special Event Permit” not listed as “exempt” in Section 10-15 “Exceptions” – 85 decibels (dBA)

Noise measurements shall be taken at a point on adjacent private property or on the opposite side of an adjacent public right-of-way where the noise is generated.

There has been increasing concern for noise associated during lawn maintenance, both residential and commercial. In Section 10-13 “Noise Nuisance Enumeration”, subsection (11) addresses the use of gasoline powered lawn equipment and the days and times the use of gasoline powered equipment is allowed. These restrictions DO NOT apply to electric or battery powered equipment.

In order to allow residents and lawn maintenance crews to become familiar with the City Code and adjust their routine there will be no enforcement action taken until after October 31, 2025. Until then officers will be observant to violations and offer reminders when violations are observed or reported.

There are certain circumstances such as construction where associated noise is not measured by decibel rating. Instead, construction is restricted to weekdays (except holidays) and only between the hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except in cases of urgent necessity in the event of public safety.

The entire City Code Section 10 “Noise and Sound Level Regulation” can be accessed by the **following link**. Should there be any question regarding the amended Chapter 10, please contact the Alamo Heights Police Department at (210) 822-3321.