

# City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

noise amendment

## CHAPTER 1999-18

No. <sup>386</sup>

### AN ORDINANCE

IN AMENDMENT OF

CHAPTER 1988- 2, ARTICLE III, NOISE CONTROL SECTION 16-92,  
ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO NOISE REGULATIONS, AS  
AMENDED.

*Approved* July 12, 1999

### *Be it ordained by the City of Providence:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 1988-2 Article III Sections 16-92, 16-93 and 16-97  
are amended to read as follows:

#### "SECTION 16-92. Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the words and phrases used  
in this article shall have the following meanings:

- (a) SOUND LEVEL (NOISE LEVEL) IN DECIBELS: Is the level  
measured on the A-Weighted scale as defined in the American National  
Standard S-4-1071.
- (b) AMBIENT NOISE: Is the all-encompassing noise associated with a  
given environment, being a composite of sounds from many sources,  
near and far. For the purpose of this article, ambient noise level is the  
average over five (5) minutes excluding random intermittent noises and  
the alleged offensive noise at the location and time of day at which a  
comparison with an alleged offensive noise is to be made.

Averaging may be done by instrumental analysis in accordance with  
American National Standard S.13-1971, or may be done manually as  
follows:

- (1) Observe a sound level meter for five (5) seconds and record the best  
estimate of central tendency of the indicator needle, and the highest and  
lowest indications.
- (2) Repeat the observations as many times as necessary to provide that  
observations be made at the beginning and at the end of the five (5)-  
minute average period and that there shall be at least as many additional  
observations as there are decibels between the lowest low indication and  
the highest high indication.
- (3) Calculate the arithmetical average of the observed central tendency  
indications.

...

No.

CHAPTER

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF  
CHAPTER 1988-2, ARTICLE III, NOISE  
CONTROL SECTION 16-92, ENTITLED "AN  
ORDINANCE RELATING TO NOISE REGULATIONS,  
AS AMENDED

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 4 1999  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
ORDINANCES

*Michael A. Cline*

THE COMMITTEE ON  
ORDINANCES  
Approves Passage of  
The Within Ordinance

*Barbara E. Garrison*  
5/26/99

*Councilmen Igliozzi, Hassett and Butler*

*Councilmen Allen, Aponte, Clarkin, DeLucas,  
Councilwoman DiRuzzo, Councilmen Jackson, Lombardi,  
Mancini. Councilwomen Nolan, Romano, Williams +  
Young*

(m) Unnecessary, Excessive, or Offensive Noise shall mean any sound or noise conflicting with the criteria, standards, or levels set forth in this Ordinance for permissible noises. In the absence of specific maximum noise levels, a noise level which exceeds the ambient noise level by 5 dBA or more when measured at the nearest property line or, in the case of multiple-family residential buildings, when measured anywhere in one dwelling unit with respect to a noise emanating from another dwelling unit or from common space in the same building, or a noise audible to a person of reasonably sensitive hearing at a distance of 200 feet from its source, shall be deemed a prima facie violation of this Ordinance.

...

**SECTION 3. RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, AND SIMILAR DEVICES.** It shall be unlawful for any person within any residential zone of the city to use or operate any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, television set, or other machine device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such a manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of neighborhood residents or of any reasonable person of normal sensitivity present in the area. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device so as to exceed 50 dBA between the hours of eight (8) o'clock P.M. and seven (7) o'clock A.M. or so as to exceed 55 dBA between the hours of seven (7) o'clock A.M. and eight (8) o'clock P.M. measured at the property line of the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located or at any hour when the same is audible to a person of reasonably sensitive hearing at a distance of 200 feet from its source shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

...

**SECTION 7. MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, FANS, AND AIR CONDITIONING.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any machinery, equipment, pump, fan and air conditioning apparatus, or similar mechanical device in any residential neighborhood so as to exceed 50 dBA between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. or so as to exceed 55 dBA between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. or at any hour when the same is audible to a person of reasonably sensitive hearing at a distance of 200 feet from its source."

**SECTION 2.** This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUN 17 1999  
FIRST READING  
READ AND PASSED

*Richard R. Clement*  
CLERK

IN CITY  
COUNCIL

JUL 1 1999  
FINAL READING  
READ AND PASSED

*John M. Angelone*  
PRESIDENT  
CLERK

