

CITY OF STAFFORD, KANSAS

ORDINANCE NO. 1083

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NOISE WITHIN THE CITY OF STAFFORD, KANSAS; ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVELS; PROVIDING DISTANCE-BASED STANDARDS; REGULATING ANIMAL NOISE INCLUDING BARKING DOGS; DEFINING VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF STAFFORD, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This ordinance shall be known as the “City of Stafford Noise Control Ordinance.”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of residents by preventing excessive noise and establishing measurable standards.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

Decibel (dB): Unit measuring sound pressure level.

dBA: A-weighted sound scale.

Property Line: Legal boundary of property.

Receiving Property: Property where sound is heard.

Sound Level Meter: ANSI Type 1 or 2 compliant device.

Plainly Audible: Sound clearly heard by normal hearing.

Animal Noise: Barking, howling, whining, or similar sounds.

SECTION 4. MAXIMUM SOUND LEVELS

Residential:

7 AM–10 PM: 65 dBA

10 PM–7 AM: 55 dBA

Commercial:

7 AM–10 PM: 70 dBA

10 PM–7 AM: 60 dBA

SECTION 5. DISTANCE STANDARD

Violation if sound is plainly audible at:

50 feet (daytime)

25 feet (nighttime)

Or inside another residence.

SECTION 6. ANIMAL NOISE

Violation if:

Continuous noise ≥ 10 minutes

OR intermittent ≥ 30 minutes in 1 hour

OR audible at 50 ft day / 25 ft night

OR audible inside another residence.

SECTION 7. PROHIBITED ACTS

(1) The playing or permitting or causing the playing of any radio, radio receiving set, television, phonograph, "boom box," loudspeaker, drum, juke box, nickelodeon, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces or amplifies sound when done in such a manner or with such volume, intensity or with continued duration so as to annoy, to distress or to disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person of reasonable sensibilities within the vicinity or hearing thereof. This subsection shall not apply to persons who have written authorization for an event which includes use of such a device, or to the police or public authorities who are using such a device in the performance of their duties.

(2) Motor Vehicles. The use of any motor vehicle, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle so out of repair or in such a manner as to create loud or unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise which shall annoy, distress or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person of reasonable sensibilities within the vicinity.

(3) Peddlers, Hawkers, Etc. The raucous shouting, whistling, yelling, singing, hooting or crying of peddlers, hawkers, vendors before eight a.m. or after ten p.m.

(4) Construction. The erection, including construction, excavation, demolition, alteration or repair work, or the permitting or causing thereof, of any building or other structure, or the operation or the permitting or causing the operation of any tools, or equipment used in construction, excavation, drilling, demolition, alteration or repair work:

(i) Other than between the hours of seven a.m. and ten p.m.;

(ii) This subsection shall not apply in cases of extreme and urgent necessity in the interest of public safety and convenience, and then only by permit obtained from and issued by the director of public works, or any of the director's duly appointed assistants.

(5) Loading and Unloading. The creation of loud, excessive and unreasonable noise in connection with loading or unloading any vehicle, in the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates and containers or in the handling of ash, trash and garbage cans, either in the loading or unloading, or the creation by improper loading of excessive and unreasonable noise by the transportation of any materials over and along streets other than between the hours of seven a.m. to ten p.m.

Includes loud music, vehicle systems beyond 50 ft, shouting, outdoor speakers, repeated disturbances, and animal noise violations.

SECTION 8. MEASUREMENT

Measured at property line or 50 ft using dBA, averaged over 15 seconds. Enforcement may use meter or audible standard.

SECTION 9. EXEMPTIONS

Emergency services, permitted events, government/school activities, agricultural operations.

The following activities, as long as they are conducted in daytime hours as a normal function of permitted use and the equipment is maintained in proper working condition, are excepted from the provisions of this chapter: (a) Lawn maintenance; (b) Repair of personal use vehicles; (c) Home repair of place of residence

SECTION 10. APPLICATION TO USE SOUND AMPLIFICATION DEVICES

It shall be unlawful to use a sound amplification device unless the person or entity desiring to use the same receives written authorization for the use of sound amplification equipment as authorized. A person must complete and file an application for such authorization with the City Office on a form approved by the City. The applicant must provide the following information: (1) The type of proposed event or activity; (2) The number of participants for the proposed event or activity; (3) The location, including street address of the area to be utilized for the activity; (4) The date or dates and specific times for the activity; (5) The plans for sound control and sound amplification, including the number, location and power of amplifiers and speakers. (6) The name, address and phone number of the party responsible for the event.

SECTION 11. ENFORCEMENT

Police or code officers enforce ordinance.

SECTION 12. PENALTIES

1st: Warning/\$100

2nd: \$250

3rd+: \$500

SECTION 13. SEVERABILITY

Invalid sections do not affect remaining ordinance.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective after passage and publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 8th day of June 2026.

s/s Don Hardin, Mayor

Attest:

s/s Jami Downing, City Administrator