

To: City of the Village of Douglas City Council
Date: September 17, 2026
From: Sean Homyen, Planning & Zoning Administrator
RE: Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment – Second Read



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background on the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Article IV of the City Code regarding noise. The proposed ordinance amendment was reviewed and prepared by the City Attorney to provide clearer standards for construction-related noise and improve the City's ability to administer and enforce the ordinance consistently.

Background. The current ordinance generally allows construction between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. but does not define construction activity. The ordinance refers to the erection, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair of a building or property but does not specifically address grading, site preparation, utility work, material deliveries, loading and unloading, or the operation of construction vehicles and equipment. The current construction provision also establishes permitted hours without clearly distinguishing between noise normally associated with construction and noise that is unnecessary to perform the work.

These provisions can create uncertainty for residents, contractors, and enforcement staff regarding the types of construction activity allowed during the permitted hours. The proposed amendment is intended to clarify the ordinance and establish standards that can be applied consistently throughout the City.

Process. City Council conducted the First Reading of the proposed ordinance amendment on August 17, 2026. The ordinance is now before City Council for Second Reading and consideration of adoption. If adopted, the ordinance will be published within 15 days of adoption and will become effective 20 days after the date of publication.

Proposed Changes. The proposed ordinance amendment would add a definition of construction activity that includes grading, site preparation, utility work, equipment operation, deliveries, and the removal of construction materials or debris. Section 16-87(b)(8) would be revised to address construction-related noise and refer permitted construction activity to the exceptions contained in Section 16-88.

Section 16-88 would be revised to provide a specific exception for reasonable construction activity conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The exception would not authorize amplified sound, intentional noise-making, unnecessary idling, or equipment being operated in a manner that creates noise that is not reasonably necessary for the construction activity.

The proposed language would also preserve the City's ability to enforce permit conditions, stop-work orders, zoning requirements, building code requirements, and other applicable laws.

Section 16-89(a) would be revised to clarify the maximum permissible sound levels for residential and

commercial receiving properties. The proposed maximum levels are 70 dBA between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and 65 dBA between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Requested Action. City Council is asked to conduct the Second Reading of the proposed ordinance amendment and consider adoption.