



## ITEM SUMMARY

**MEETING DATE:** March 21, 2022

**FROM:** Kara Irwin-Ferris, AICP, Development & Neighborhood Services Director

**SUBJECT:** **Ordinance 2022-02**  
Noise

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### BACKGROUND

A City-initiated request for a text amendment that reduce the hours for construction and machinery activity and to add regulations on commercial sanitation operations, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment on residential property and landscaping and yard maintenance power tools or motorized equipment where the Zoning Code is presently silent.

Noise pollution is a natural part of construction. The term “noise pollution” includes any type of sound that affects the health and well-being of humans and wildlife. The human ear does not judge sound in absolute terms, but instead senses the intensity of how many times greater one sound is to another. The severity of noise pollution is measured through decibels. A decibel is the basic unit of sound level; it denotes a ratio of intensity to a reference sound. Most sounds that humans are capable of hearing have a decibel (dB) range of 0 to 140. A whisper is about 30 dB, conversational speech 60 dB, and 130 dB is the threshold of physical pain. Generally, excessive noise is considered anything causing or exceeding 85 decibels of sound over an eight-hour period.

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### ANALYSIS

City staff initiated this code change after review of construction activity within the city and complaints received from residents. After reviewing the city’s current standards, staff determined that there was a need to revise the hours in which construction activity is allowed and to add noise restrictions on commercial sanitation operations, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment on residential property and landscaping and yard maintenance power tools or motorized equipment where the Code is presently silent.

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### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

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### LEGAL

Ordinance 2022-06 was prepared in accordance with all applicable state statutes and City Code Requirements.

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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*Approval* of the adoption of Ordinance 2022-06.