

Proposed Amendments to Noise Ordinance

General Government Committee

February 9, 2026



Goals of Noise Ordinance Amendments

- Standardize hours and sound levels
- Make definitions easier to understand
- Clarify rules for when/how a citation may be issued
- Update prohibitions and exceptions

Comparison Cities

- Asheville
- Charlotte
- Concord
- Durham
- Greensboro
- High Point
- Raleigh
- Wilmington

Phase One

- Focuses on public assembly facilities such as amphitheaters, stadiums, arenas, and other outdoor sports or entertainment venues
 - Seating capacity: stadium (5,000+), arena (1,000+), and other outdoor sports or entertainment venues like an amphitheater (1,000+)
 - Establishes a maximum decibel threshold of 85 dB(A) for *amplified* sound
 - Threshold in effect Sunday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
 - Compliance to be measured from the boundary line of the complainant property owner
 - Class 3 misdemeanor and fines for non-compliance
 - Accountability for non-compliance
- Motorsports events exempted from decibel threshold requirement
- Expands list of exempted activities
- Adds language from County ordinance directly into City Code

Phase Two

- Establishes maximum decibel thresholds for the Central Business District (CBD), commercial areas, and residential areas.
- Measurement would take place at the boundary line of the complainant property owner closest to the source of the sound. Measurements would be taken at a minimum interval of one minute.

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