

**TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO
COUNTY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN
NOISE ORDINANCE
Ordinance No. 22-04-26-1**

At a meeting of the Township Board of Waterloo Township, Jackson County, Michigan, held at the Waterloo Township Hall on April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., Township Board Member Lance moved to adopt the following Ordinance, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member McAlister:

An Ordinance to secure the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Waterloo Township, Jackson County, Michigan, by the regulation and prohibition of certain noise within the Township, the exemption of certain noise from the Ordinance prohibitions, the designation of civil infractions and civil penalties for violations of the Ordinance, and the repeal and replacement of any other inconsistent ordinances, including but not limited to Waterloo Township Ordinance No. 93-09-21-5.

WATERLOO TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE. The intent of this Ordinance is to provide Waterloo Township with an enforceable noise ordinance that allows residents and visitors to be free from noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities.

SECTION 2: TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Waterloo Township Noise Ordinance.

SECTION 3: GENERAL PROHIBITED NOISE.

- A. No person or entity shall cause or create any unreasonable noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping, in any office, hotel, motel, hospital, or residence.
- B. The following noises are hereby declared to be a violation of this Ordinance but shall not be deemed the exclusive noises that violate this Ordinance. Each noise that continues or is repeated in a 1/2-hour time frame may be considered a separate violation of this Ordinance, subject to additional prosecution and civil penalties.
 - 1. **HORNS & SIGNALS** - the sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, snowmobile, or other vehicle for any purpose other than to avoid an accident or collision, provide a signal of danger, or give warning of motion.
 - 2. **MUSIC** - the playing of any radio, television, phonograph, media player, or musical instrument in such a manner that it is plainly audible on a property other than that from which the sound is being emitted, that would offend a reasonable person of normal

sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.

3. **VOCAL NOISES** - yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing on the public streets or public area between the hours of 10:00 pm to 8:00 am or at any dwelling or private property where the noise is plainly audible on a property other than that from which the sound is being emitted, that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.
4. **ANIMALS** - the keeping of any animal, bird, or fowl that emits frequent, loud or extended noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.
5. **AUTOMOBILES** - the operation of any automobile, motorcycle, snowmobile, or other vehicle in such a state of disrepair, or loaded in such a manner, as to result in loud grating, grinding, rattling, exhaust, or other noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.
6. **SIRENS** - the blowing of any whistles or sirens, except as a warning of fire danger or emergency.
7. **ENGINE EXHAUST**- the discharging outside of any enclosed building of the exhaust of any steam engine, internal combustion engine, motor vehicle, snowmobile, or motor boat engine, except through a muffler or other similar device that will effectively prevent loud noises resulting therefrom, that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.
8. **CONSTRUCTION** - the erection, excavation, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building or structure, other than between sunrise and sunset, where such activities result in the creation of an unreasonably loud noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping, except in the case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety, for the duration of such emergency.
9. **DEVICES TO ATTRACT ATTENTION** - the use of any drum, loudspeaker, or other instrument or device for attracting attention to any performance, show, sale, or display of merchandise, to create a noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.
10. **YARD EQUIPMENT** - the use of any yard equipment including, but not limited to, chain saws, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, snow blowers, and insect control, other than between sunrise and sunset, to create a noise that would offend a reasonable person of normal

sensitivities and disrupt the reasonable conduct of basic human activities, such as conversing or sleeping.

SECTION 4: EXEMPTIONS.

A. None of the prohibitions of the previous Section 3 shall apply to or be enforced against the following activities and conduct:

1. **EMERGENCY VEHICLES** - any police vehicle, ambulance, fire engine, or other emergency vehicle while engaged in normal and customary activities related to preserving the public health and safety.
2. **WARNING SIGNALS** - noises emitted from warning devices for the purpose of notifying individuals or the public at large, as authorized by law.
3. **ROAD CONSTRUCTION, SNOWPLOWING, AND UTILITY MANAGEMENT** - excavation or repair of streets, highways, bridges or any utility management or work done by or on the behalf of Waterloo Township, the County of Jackson, the State of Michigan, or a public utility.
4. **RAILROAD OPERATIONS** - all railroad operations meeting the maximum permissible noise levels permitted by law.

B. The initial determination of whether any noise violates the prohibitions of this Ordinance shall be made by an Authorized Township Official. Authorized Township Officials include the Township Code Enforcement Officer, Township Zoning Administrator, a law enforcement officer including members of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, or any other person or entity authorized to enforce this Ordinance by the Waterloo Township Board or designated as Authorized Township Officials under the Waterloo Township Civil Infractions Ordinance. The initial determination is subject to review by the Waterloo Township Board upon written application made by the alleged violator within 15 days after the initial determination.

SECTION 5: VIOLATIONS. Any person or entity that violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed responsible for a municipal civil infraction and shall be subject to a civil penalty. The civil penalty for a first violation is One Hundred Dollars (\$125.00); the first repeat violation is Two Hundred Fifty Dollars; each successive subsequent violation after the first repeat violation the penalty shall be Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per violation. Every day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate violation. In addition to municipal civil infractions and civil penalties, this Ordinance may be enforced by a civil action against an alleged violator for injunctive or other relief as permitted by law.

SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction it shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 7: REPEAL. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective within thirty days following its publication.

YEAS: Walz, Kitley, Lance, McAlister

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Morency

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED:



Douglas Lance, Waterloo Township Supervisor