



RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Richmond City Council Public Safety Meeting
October 22, 2024

DEPUTY CHIEF SYBIL EL-AMIN JONES

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND TURN DOWN THE \$OUND.



RICHMOND POLICE ARE ENFORCING THE NEW SOUND ORDINANCE, WHERE REPEATED CALLS FOR SERVICE MAY RESULT IN FINES OF UP TO \$500.00 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE.

CIVIL PENALTY

City of Richmond Sound Control Enforcement Ordinance- 2024-194, Article 11- Sound Control, § 11-32 through 11- 38.

Any person who commits, permits, assists in, or attempts any violation of this article, whether by act or omission, shall be liable for a civil violation as follows:

- The first violation of this article by such a person shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of \$100.00.
- The second violation of this article committed by such a person within seven days of the first violation shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of \$200.00.
- The third and any subsequent violation of this article committed by such person within 14 days of the first violation shall be punished by a civil penalty in the amount of \$500.00.
- Continuing violations-Each hour of a continued violation shall constitute a separate offense under the Sound Ordinance.

FAQ-CITY OF RICHMOND SOUND ORDINANCE

SUMMARY

- Effective October 1, 2024, Richmond Police will enforce the new sound ordinance that shifts from criminal to civil penalties for noise violations, with escalating fines for repeated offenses: \$100 for the first, \$200 for the second within seven days, and \$500 for further violations within 14 days. Continuous violations are treated as separate offenses.
 - Reports of violations/data on calls for service to specific locations are managed through the Department of Emergency Communications (DEC)
 - Nine noise complaint categories include residences, schools, healthcare facilities, vehicles, animals, and entertainment venues.
 - Most violations occur when sounds exceed 65 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. or 55 dBA between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
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FAQ-CITY OF RICHMOND SOUND ORDINANCE

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- **Informing residents and businesses about the ordinance, with resources shared on social media and neighborhood/business owner community meetings.**
 - **Businesses in the hospitality and entertainment industries are required to ensure compliance and may need to invest in soundproofing measures**
 - **Places of worship will need to display at least one sign that is clearly visible indicating that services are taking place.**
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FAQ-CITY OF RICHMOND SOUND ORDINANCE

MESSAGING

The updated ordinance aims to address noise disturbances by promoting compliance through civil penalties instead of criminal charges. This change demonstrates the city's dedication to preserving peaceful surroundings while encouraging residents, visitors, and business owners to be considerate neighbors.

As Richmond continues to grow and evolve, the Richmond Police Department remains committed to ensuring that every resident feels valued and heard. By working together, the community can foster a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere that strives for a more sustainable and respectful urban environment, balancing the diverse needs of its residents with the lively spirit of city life. The City of Richmond aspires to create a community where everyone can experience both tranquility and the rich cultural diversity that Richmond provides.

FAQ-CITY OF RICHMOND SOUND ORDINANCE

COMPLIANCE PROCESS

- **Violators have 15 days to pay fines or face debt proceedings. Payments can be mailed or hand-delivered to City Hall.**
 - **Richmond's initiative aims to balance city vibrancy with peaceful living, promoting a respectful environment for all residents.**
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FAQ-CITY OF RICHMOND SOUND ORDINANCE

COMPLAINT AND ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

- **All complaints must originate from non-police/off-duty personnel. If a complaint is made in person, uniformed personnel will activate their Body Worn Camera and generate a report number through DEC. Non-uniformed personnel will advise the complainant to call the Police Non-Emergency number.**
 - **The Department of Emergency Communications records and dispatches calls.**
 - **Complaints can be made anonymously.**
 - **Officers have been trained and will be required to use Sound Level Meters to measure noise with the exception of noise violations involving animals, and vehicles.**
 - **Violations may result in notices, and responsible parties include property owners or managers.**
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