ORDINANCE # 2026-02
INTRODUCED BY VERRET
DATE INTRODUCED 02-03-2026
ITEM NUMBER 2026-02-01
PUBLIC HEARING 03-03-2026
ADOPTED/TABLED 03-3-2026
EFFECTIVE 3-18-2026
BOOK # PAGE #
RECORDATION #
AMENDED BY ORDINANCE #
DATE AMENDED

ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

CITY OF COVINGTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON AMENDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF THE COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES: CHAPTER 42 ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL SEC. 42-2 NOISE CONTROL

Whereas, the Covington Code of Ordinances Chapter 42, Section 42-2 sets forth regulations for noise control; and

Whereas, clarification regarding the types and levels of noise as well as enforcement is necessary; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that the Covington Code of Ordinances Chapter 42 Environment, Section 42-2 Noise Control, be amended as follows:

Sec. 42-2. Noise control.

(a) *Declaration of policy.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the city to prevent excessive, unnecessary, unreasonable or unusually loud noise. It is further declared that the provisions and prohibitions contained and enacted in this article are in pursuance of and for the purpose of preserving, protecting and promoting the public health, safety, welfare, prosperity and the peace and quiet of the city and its inhabitants.

~~(b) *Nonexclusive enumeration.* The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing and unreasonable noises and noises in violation of this section. This enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:~~

~~(1) *Horns or signal devices.* The sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, street car or other vehicle while not in motion, except as a danger signal if another vehicle is approaching apparently out of control, or if in motion only as a danger signal after or as brakes are being applied and deceleration of the vehicle is intended; the creation by means of any such signal device of any noise for any unreasonable period of time.~~

~~(2) *Radio, phonograph or any musical instrument.* The playing of any radio, phonograph or any musical instrument in such a manner or with such volume, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any office, hospital, or in any dwelling, hotel or other type of residence, or of any persons in the vicinity.~~

~~(3) *Yelling, shouting, etc.* Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing on the public streets, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, repose of persons in any hospital, dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any persons in the vicinity.~~

~~(4) *Defect in vehicle or load.* The use of any automobile, motorcycle, street car or vehicle so out of repair or loaded in such manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.~~

~~(5) *Steam whistles.* The blowing of any steam whistle attached to any stationary boiler except to give notice of the time to begin or stop work, or as a warning of fire or danger, or upon the request of proper authorities.~~

~~(6) *Exhausts.* The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any steam engine, stationary internal combustion engine, motor vehicle or motor boat engine except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.~~

(b) *Noise Specific Prohibitions*.

1. *Disturbing the Peace.* General noise control regulations and enforcement measures outlined in Section 66-106. Disturbing the Peace of the City of Covington Code of Ordinances shall prevail where applicable. This includes, but is not limited to: Horns and signal devices, automobiles and equipment, musical instruments and/or sound systems, yelling and shouting, etc.

2. *Construction and repairing of buildings.* The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building in any residential district or section, the excavation of streets or highways in any residential district or section other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, and demolition of any building in any zoning district between the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 7:00 a.m. on Monday, except in case of urgent necessity, in the interest of public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the building official or director of public works, which permit may be granted for a period not to exceed 30 days while the emergency continues. If the building official or director of public works should determine that the public health and safety will not be impaired by the erection, demolition, alteration or repair of any building or the excavation of streets and highways between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays or the demolition of any building between the hours of 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 7:00 a.m. on Monday, and if he shall further determined that loss or inconvenience would result to any party in interest, he may grant permission for such work to be done within the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays or demolition within the hours of 6:00 p.m. Friday and 7:00 a.m. Monday, upon application being made at the time the permit for the work is awarded or during the progress of the work.

~~(8) *Schools, courts, churches, hospitals.* The creation of any excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, institution of learning, church or court while such school, institution of learning, church or court are in use or adjacent to any hospital, which unreasonably interferes with the working of such institution or which disturbs or unduly annoys patients in a hospital.~~

~~(9) *Loading, unloading.* The creation of a loud and excessive noise in connection with loading or unloading any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates and containers.~~

~~(10) *Drums, loudspeakers.* The use of any drum, loudspeakers or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention by creation of noise to any performance, show or sale or display of merchandise.~~

~~(11) *Loudspeakers on trucks.* The use of mechanical loudspeakers or amplifiers on trucks or other moving or standing vehicles for advertising or other purposes.~~

~~(12) *Loudspeakers for advertising.* The use or operation, or the causing to be used or operated, in front of or outside of any building, place, or premises, or through any window, doorway or opening of such building abutting upon the public street, or upon any public street any device or apparatus for tapping windows, or for amplifying sound from any radio or phonograph, or any sound reproducing device.~~

~~(13) *Hawkers, peddlers and vendors.* The shouting or crying of peddlers, hawkers and vendors which disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.~~

~~(c) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:~~

A-weighted sound level means the sound level in decibels, reported as measured by a sound level measuring instrument having an A-weighting network which discriminates against the lower frequencies according to a relationship approximating the auditory sensitivity of the human ear. The level so read is designated dBA.

dBA means the abbreviation designating the unit of sound level as measured by a sound level meter using the A-weighting.

Decibel means the practical unit of measurement for sound pressure level; the number of decibels of a measured sound is equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of the sound pressure of the measured sound to the sound pressure of a standard sound (20 micropascals); abbreviated "dB."

Impulsive sound means either a single pressure peak or a single burst (multiple pressure peaks) having a duration of less than one second.

Noise means any sounds of such level and duration as to be or tend to be injurious to human health or welfare, or which would unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property throughout the city in any portions thereof, but excludes all aspects of the employer-employee relationship concerning health and safety hazards within the confines of a place of employment.

Real property line means either (i) the imaginary line including its vertical extension that separates one parcel of real property from another, or (ii) the vertical and horizontal boundaries of a dwelling unit that is one in a multidwelling-unit building.

Sound level means the sound pressure level measured in decibels with a sound level meter set for A-weighting; sound level is expressed in dBA.

Sound level meter means an instrument used to measure sound pressure level, sound level, or peak sound pressure level, separately or in any combinations thereof and which measures the sound in decibels.

Sound source means any person, animal, device, operation, process, activity, or phenomenon which emits or causes sound.

(d) *Maximum permissible sound levels.*

(1) No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the operation of any source of sound on a particular category of property or any public space or right-of-way in such a manner as to create a sound level that exceeds the particular sound level limits set forth in this article when measured at or within the real property line of the receiving property except as provided in subsection (f) of this section.

a.	Residential	7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	70 dBA
		10:00 p.m.—7:00 a.m.	65 dBA
b.	Commercial	All times	70 dBA
	Industrial	All times	75 dBA

(e) *Procedures.* Noise measurements shall be made by an officer or a representative of the city police department duly trained and authorized. Sound level measurements will be taken at or within the complainant's property line or no less than 100 feet from the source of the sound, whichever is closer to the source of the sound. Measurements shall be of sufficient number to ensure that the sound levels measured are typical of the source under observation, but in no event should the duration of the test be less than two tests during a five-minute span.

(f) *Exemptions.* The following are exempt from the sound level limits of subsection (d) of this section:

(1) Noise from domestic power tools, lawn mowers, and agricultural equipment when operated with a muffler between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekends and legal holidays, provided they produce less than 85 dBA at or within any real property line of a residential property;

(2) Sound from church bells and church chimes when a part of a religious observance or service;

~~(3) Noise from construction activity provided all motorized equipment used in such activity is equipped with functioning mufflers;~~

~~(4) The emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency;~~

~~(5) The emission of sound in the performance of emergency work; or~~

~~(6) The emission of sound from municipally sponsored or approved celebrations or events.~~

~~(g) *Dumpsters.*~~

~~(1) Dumpsters are defined as any collection container for the deposit of garbage, refuse, rubbish, waste matter, junk, or litter, with a capacity of two cubic yards or larger.~~

3. *Dumpsters*. It shall be unlawful for any sanitation company or person to collect, dump or remove any material from any dumpster between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

~~(h) *Penalty.*~~

~~(1) Whoever violates a provision of this section shall be fined one hundred dollars for a first offense, three hundred dollars for a second offense and five hundred dollars for a third offense and each subsequent offense. The magistrate may also sentence those who violate this ordinance on four or five occasions to time in jail, excluding violations of subsection (g). The magistrate shall sentence those who violate any part of this ordinance on six or more occasions to time in jail, excluding violations of subsection (g). Such time in jail shall not be less than one day and not in excess of the maximum time set forth in section 1-8 of this Code for each offense.~~

~~(2) Upon the conviction for a first offense, the mayor's court magistrate may order the violator to surrender to Covington Police Department the driver's license of the driver involved in the violation for a period not to exceed thirty days. The violator shall be responsible for the retrieval of his driver's license from the law enforcement agency after the expiration of the period of surrender.~~

~~(3) Upon the conviction for a second or subsequent offense, the mayor's court magistrate may order the violator to surrender to the Covington Police Department the driver's license of the driver involved in the violation for a period not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days. The violator shall be responsible for the retrieval of his driver's license from the law enforcement agency after the expiration of the period of surrender.~~

(c) *Exemptions.*

1. *Emergency Vehicles.* Authorized emergency vehicles when responding to an emergency.

2. *Community Events.* City-sponsored or properly permitted community events, such as festivals, parades and concerts. Note: Private events (permitted or un-permitted) held at private residences or establishments are subject to the regulations and enforcement measures outlined in Section 66-106. Disturbing the Peace.

3. *School Functions.* Noises made during scheduled school functions, such as sporting events or fairs.

(Code 1977, § 14-117; Ord. No. 99-12, § 14-117, 4-20-1999; Ord. No. 2002-13, 4-16-2002; Ord. No. 2006-17, 7-24-2006; Ord. No. 2016-03, 1-7-2016)

State law reference(s)—R.S. 14:103.1

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can

be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

WHEREUPON, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION by Verret, seconded by Inman.

YEAS: 6 **ABSENT:** 1
NAYS: 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of March, 2026.

/s/ _____
MARK W. VERRET
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

/s/ Jo Ann Rucker
JOANN RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Presented to the Mayor on this 4th day of March, 2026, at 9:30 o'clock A.M.

/s/ Jo Ann Rucker
JOANN RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK

Approved ✓ or Vetoed ___ by the Mayor on this 4th day of March, 2026.

/s/ _____
MARK R. JOHNSON
MAYOR

Received from the Mayor on this 4th day of March, 2026, at 2:30 o'clock P.M.

/s/ Jo Ann Rucker
JOANN RUCKER
COUNCIL CLERK