

NOISE CONTROL

Chapter 14

NOISE CONTROL

Sec. 14-1. Exceptions from chapter.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to or be enforced against:

- (1) Any vehicle of the city while engaged in necessary public business.
- (2) Excavations or repairs of streets by or on behalf of the city, county, or state.
- (3) Any activity performed by or on behalf of the city, county, or state in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

Sec. 14-2. Loud, disturbing, etc., noise generally.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others in the city. The acts enumerated in this article are examples of loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises in violation of this section, but shall not be deemed to be exclusive. Unless otherwise specified, the creation of any loud, unnecessary, or unusual noise between the hours of 11:00 pm and 7:00 am, in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from the building, structure, or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

Sec. 14-3. Yelling, shouting, etc.

Yelling, whistling, or singing on the public streets, so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in any office, dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence, or of any persons in the vicinity, is prohibited.

Sec. 14-4. Noise from radios, musical instruments, etc.

No person shall use, operate, or play any radio, television, musical instrument, or other machine or device for producing or reproducing sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet, and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants. Furthermore, no person shall operate such a machine or device with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person who is in the room, vehicle, or chamber in which such machine or device is voluntarily utilized.

Sec. 14-5. Noise from vehicles generally, compression release engine brakes.

No person shall, at any time, use any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle that is so out of repair or used in such manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, or other noise. Further, the use of compression release engine brakes (sometimes referred to as Jake Brakes) is prohibited at all times within the city limits.

Sec. 14-6. Use of horns, bells, whistles, etc.

It shall be unlawful, at any time, to sound any bell, horn, whistle, mechanical device operated by compressed air, or signal device while not in motion, except as a danger signal, for an unnecessary or unreasonable amount of time.

Sec. 14-7. Noise from loading or unloading operations or opening or destruction of bales, boxes, etc.

The creation of a loud and excessive noise in connection with the loading or unloading of any vehicle or the opening and destruction of bales, boxes, crates, and containers is prohibited.

Sec. 14-8. Transportation of metal rails, etc.

No person shall transport rails, pillars or columns of iron, steel, or other material over and along the streets in such a manner as to cause loud noises or disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.

Sec. 14-9. Operation of noisy equipment.

The operation of any pile driver, power shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, electric hoist, air compressor, pressure washer, or any other appliance, the use of which is attended by loud or unusual noise, is prohibited. City workers, doing work on behalf of the City of Forsyth, are exempt from this provision.

Sec. 14-10. Noisy animals and birds.

It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any animal or bird which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort or repose of any persons in the vicinity.

Sec. 14-11. Fireworks.

With the exception of a special use permit, and the dates of January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, association, partnership, or other entity, to use, ignite, explode, or cause to be detonated any consumer fireworks as defined in O.C.G.A. 25-10-1 during the hours of 9:00 pm and 11:59 pm. On January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31, pursuant to state law, the use of consumer fireworks shall be authorized during the hours of 10:00 am to 11:59 pm. In addition, on January 1, pursuant to state law, the use of fireworks shall be authorized from midnight to 1:00 am. All use of consumer fireworks must be done in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

Secs. 14-12. Enforcement.

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by the police department. An officer of the Forsyth Police Department must be present and must witness production of such an unlawful noise before any citation may be issued for violation of this chapter. Any violation of this ordinance may be punished by a fine as designated in Chapter 1 of this Code. Each day any violation of this ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.