

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: 02/15/22

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 03/01/2022

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Assistant Chief Peter Pacillas, 915-212-4308

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: 2-Set the Standard for a Safe and Secure City

SUBGOAL: 2.1-Maintain standing as one of the nation's top safest cities.

SUBJECT:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9 (HEALTH AND SAFETY), CHAPTER 9.40 (NOISE), SECTION 9.40.020 (APPLICABILITY) TO CLARIFY THE REASONABLE SENSIBILITIES STANDARD; SECTION 9.40.030 (SOUND LEVEL VIOLATIONS) TO CLARIFY THE MAXIMUM SOUND LEVEL, THAT SOUND LEVELS APPLY TO PROPERTIES PRODUCING THE NOISE, AND THE LOCATION OF SOUND READINGS; SECTION 9.40.040 (VIBRATION) TO CLARIFY THAT VIBRATION VIOLATIONS CAN OCCUR ON ANY AFFECTED PROPERTY; SECTION 9.40.070 (PENALTIES) TO CLARIFY THAT THE CITY MAY SEEK CIVIL ACTION AND PENALTIES OF UP TO \$1,000 PER DAY; SECTION 9.40.080 (ENFORCEMENT) TO CLARIFY WHICH DEPARTMENTS HAVE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE; THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 9.40.070 OF THE CITY CODE.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

City Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 018908 on February 26, 2019, amending Chapter 9.40 of the El Paso City Code relating to noise nuisance.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

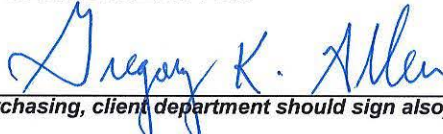
HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? ☒ YES ☐ NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Police

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: City Attorney's Office

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chief Gregory K. Allen



(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9 (HEALTH AND SAFETY), CHAPTER 9.40 (NOISE), SECTION 9.40.020 (APPLICABILITY) TO CLARIFY THE REASONABLE SENSIBILITIES STANDARD; SECTION 9.40.030 (SOUND LEVEL VIOLATIONS) TO CLARIFY THE MAXIMUM SOUND LEVEL, THAT SOUND LEVELS APPLY TO PROPERTIES PRODUCING THE NOISE, AND THE LOCATION OF SOUND READINGS; SECTION 9.40.040 (VIBRATION) TO CLARIFY THAT VIBRATION VIOLATIONS CAN OCCUR ON ANY AFFECTED PROPERTY; SECTION 9.40.070 (PENALTIES) TO CLARIFY THAT THE CITY MAY SEEK CIVIL ACTION AND PENALTIES OF UP TO \$1,000 PER DAY; SECTION 9.40.080 (ENFORCEMENT) TO CLARIFY WHICH DEPARTMENTS HAVE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE; THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 9.40.070 OF THE CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, the El Paso City Council passed and approved Ordinance No. 018908 on February 26, 2019, amending Chapter 9.40 of the El Paso City Code relating to noise nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso Police Department has responded to 131 calls for police service regarding noise disturbances from April 2021 to January 2022; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso Police Department and Code Enforcement has taken approximately 2,062 readings from various business establishments from April 2021 to January 2022; and

WHEREAS, approximately 50 of the 2,062 readings, or 2.42% of total readings, resulted in violations of the El Paso City Code; and

WHEREAS, the El Paso City Council wishes to further amend Chapter 9.40 of the El Paso City Code, to clarify the requirements of the Chapter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. That Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise), Section 9.40.020 (Applicability), Subsection B.5. shall be amended as follows:

5. Exterior loudspeakers. Operating or permitting to be operated any loudspeaker or sound-amplifying equipment in a fixed or movable position in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk, park, place, or public or private property for the purpose of commercial advertising, giving instructions, directions, talks, addresses, lectures, or transmitting music to any persons or assemblages of persons in such a manner as to unreasonably disturb or interfere with the sleep, peace, comfort, or repose of a person of reasonable sensibilities.

Section 2. That Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise), Section 9.40.030 (Sound level violations), Subsections A. and B. shall be amended and Subsection D. added as follows:

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct, permit, allow, or produce a sound that is discernable beyond the property lines of the property on which the sound is

ORDINANCE NO. _____

being produced that, when measured with a sound level meter using the standardized frequency weighting as specified by the American National Standards Institute, exceeds sixty-five dB(A) between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. daily for the property on which the sound is produced.

- B. The dB(A) levels set forth in this section apply to a property where the sound is being produced. Any sound that when measured at the property where the sound is being produced exceeds the dB(A) level set forth in this section is a violation of this chapter.
- C. Procedure. Sound levels regulated in this chapter shall be measured in accordance with a city-adopted policy.
- D. Reading Locations. The location selected for measuring noise levels shall be at the property line of the property producing the noise.

Section 3. That Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise), Section 9.40.040 (Vibration), shall be amended as follows:

It shall be unlawful for any person to create, maintain or cause any ground or airborne vibration which is perceptible without instruments by a person at any point on any affected property, in such a manner as to unreasonably disturb or interfere with the sleep, peace, comfort and repose of a person of reasonable sensibilities, unless such activity is otherwise regulated under other applicable law.

Section 4. That Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise), Section 9.40.070 (Penalties), Subsection 9.40.070.C. shall be amended as follows:

- C. In addition to proceeding under authority of subsections A. and B. of this section, the city is entitled to pursue all other criminal and civil remedies to which it is entitled under authority of statutes, including a civil action in accordance with Chapter 54 of the Texas Local Government Code to recover a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each day or portion of a day during which the violation is committed, continued, or permitted, or other ordinances against a person that remains in violation of this chapter.

Section 5. That Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise), Section 9.40.080 (Enforcement), shall be amended as follows:

The director of the planning and inspections department, the director of code enforcement, or the police chief or their designated representatives, shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter.

Section 6. Except as herein amended, Title 9 (Health and Safety), Chapter 9.40 (Noise) of the El Paso City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

(Signatures begin on following page)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

22-1152-1154 | PL#1146122

TITLE 9.40 – Amendment - Noise

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2022.

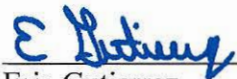
CITY OF EL PASO

Oscar Leaser
Mayor

ATTEST:

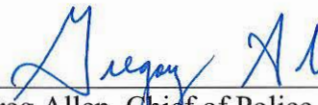
Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS FORM:



Eric Gutierrez
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Greg Allen, Chief of Police
El Paso Police Department

ORDINANCE NO. _____
22-1152-1154 | PL#1146122
TITLE 9.40 – Amendment - Noise