

## Summary of Proposed Changes to the Noise Ordinance

Item	Proposed Change	Purpose/Reason
Measurement of loud noise	Eliminate the decibel sound measurement standard and replace it with a “Reasonable Person” and “Unreasonable Noise” standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measuring decibels emitted by noise is not practical and does not align with current practices.</li> <li>Research indicates other jurisdictions are using the more practical approach of “Reasonable Person” and “Unreasonable Noise” standard.</li> </ul>
Non-Residential Uses	Add language to clarify that the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) regulates non-residential uses and subjects them to site performance standards, which include noise limitations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To clarify how non-residential uses are regulated as it pertains to noise.</li> </ul>
Definitions	Remove definitions related to the decibel sound measurement standard and add definitions for “Reasonable Person”, “Unreasonable Noise” and “Plainly Audible”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These changes reflect the proposed amendment to the noise measurement standards.</li> </ul>
Enumerated noises that are exempt	Add the following noises as being exempt from the ordinance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary construction of bridges and streets during nighttime hours.</li> <li>Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports events and entertainment facilities pursuant to the County’s Unified Development Ordinance.</li> <li>Sound associated with the delivery of public services.</li> <li>Outdoor school activities and playgrounds; and reasonable school athletic/entertainment events.</li> <li>Airport operations pursuant to federal regulations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These items are not addressed in the current ordinance and can be sources of noise complaints.</li> </ul>
Enumerated noises that are prohibited	No substantial change to noises that are prohibited is being proposed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small updates, primarily to align with the new definitions.</li> </ul>
Enforcement	Add language that identifies the Wake County Sheriff’s Office as the agency who will enforce, investigate and make determinations relative to violations of the ordinance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This item is not addressed in the current ordinance.</li> </ul>
Penalty	Add the statutory limit for penalty when a violation of the ordinance is determined. (Class 3 misdemeanor and up to \$500.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penalty for violation is not addressed within the current ordinance nor does it align with statutory limits.</li> </ul>