

Chapter 14 NOISES*

*Cross reference(s)--Sound trucks and sound amplifying devices, <sec> 3-4.

Sec. 14-1. Sounds offensive beyond premises of origin.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, cause to be made, or to permit to be made, in the City, noise or sounds, that are offensive beyond the premises of such person upon which such noise or sounds are made. Such noise or sounds are hereby declared to be nuisances and their abatement is hereby ordered and directed.

Sec. 14-2. Annoying instruments and crying of goods on streets.

The operation of juke organs, phonograph machines, sound wagons, the ringing of bells, crying of goods, the sounding of steam whistles, the playing of hand organs or other annoying instruments of any character, in the streets, alleys or other public places in the City without a special permit from the City Council, are hereby prohibited. All of same are hereby declared to be nuisances and their abatement is hereby ordered and directed.

Sec. 14-3. Motor vehicle horns.

Motor vehicle operators shall use in the City signal horns or devices of the type in general use and considered standard equipment. The use of other types is hereby prohibited, upon the streets, alleys and public places. Operators of motor vehicles shall use such horns or devices only when necessary and to the extent necessary in the actual operation of their motor vehicles and for no other purpose. Use in any other manner of such horns or devices by motor vehicle operators is hereby prohibited. This section shall not be applicable to ambulances, police cars, and motor vehicles of the fire department.

Cross reference(s)--Traffic regulations, Ch. 23.

Sec. 14-4. Application.

The provisions of this chapter shall not be applicable to the normal use of churches, schools, athletic fields and auditoriums, but this exception shall not be construed as to authorize the use of churches, schools, athletic fields and auditoriums to the annoyance and discomfort of the neighborhood of such places. Nor shall this chapter apply to the noises incidental to industry occurring in the industrial zones of the City as defined and established by the ordinances of the City.

This Chapter shall not be applicable to the normal operation of air conditioning or heating equipment, pool equipment or any other normal and customary equipment associated with any residential or non-residential use.

This Chapter shall not be applicable to the normal operation and use of lawn mowers, leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, power washers, power hand tools and other normal and customary electrical and mechanical equipment that emits sound that can be heard beyond the lot on which it is located is between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This shall include required maintenance running of equipment such as, but not limited to generators as required per the manufacturer's specifications. In the event of a power outage, the use of generators shall be permitted at any time, day or night.

This Chapter shall not be applicable to festivals, parades, fireworks displays and special events for which an appropriate permit has been issued by the City of Punta Gorda, provided such activities remain in compliance with all relevant conditions contained in such permits intended to limit noise impacts.

This Chapter shall not be applicable to the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting the public of an emergency, the performance of emergency work, reasonable noise made during customary activities of a governmental entity or utility or the sounding of burglar or fire alarms.

(Ord. No. 1650-10, <sec> 1, 9-1-10)