City of Spokane Noise Ordinance: Summary

It is the policy of the City to minimize the exposure of citizens to the harmful physiological and psychological dangers of excessive noise and to protect, promote and preserve the public health, safety and welfare. It is the intent of the City to regulate the level of noise in a manner which promotes the use, value and enjoyment of property; sleep and repose; and the quality of the environment. The objective of the Noise Ordinance is to enable all citizens of the City to peacefully coexist in a manner which is mutually respectful of the interest and rights of others.

It is unlawful for any person to cause or permit sound to intrude into the property of another person whenever the sound exceeds the maximum permissible sound levels. **It is unlawful for any person to knowingly cause or permit sound that is a public disturbance noise and it is unlawful to refuse or intentionally fail to cease the noise when ordered to do so by a law enforcement officer.** Maximum permissible sound levels are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise Source (Your House)</th>
<th>Receiving Property (Your Neighbor’s House)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Zone (Logan Neighborhood)</td>
<td>55 Decibels (dB) is the limit</td>
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Examples of public disturbance noise include but are not limited to:

The frequent, repetitive, and/or continuous sounds, which emanate from real property possessed or controlled by the person causing or permitting the sound, such as sounds from audio equipment, television set, video equipment, musical instruments, band sessions and/or social gatherings.

The frequent, repetitive and/or continuous sounds caused by operating or playing, or permitting the operating or playing, of motor vehicle audio equipment such as tape players, radios, and compact disc players, whether portable or stationary or mounted on or within a motor vehicle.

The frequent, repetitive and/or continuous sounds caused by the use of fireworks or other blasting devices without the appropriate permit.

A person or performer creating a sound, whether amplified or unamplified, between the hours of ten p.m. and seven a.m. on public property so as to be plainly audible one hundred feet or more from the source of the sound. In addition to audibility at one hundred feet, the enforcing authority shall use any or all of the following criteria to determine violation:

- whether the sound is loud enough to cause vibration of building elements (i.e. rattling windows),
- the content of the sound, such as heavy bass frequencies,
- the background sound level at the location,
- the duration of the sound at a single location where the sound is audible, and/or
- the location and time of day.

This summary of the Noise Ordinance is an adapted resource for Gonzaga Students. For the full Noise Ordinance as specified by the City of Spokane please visit [https://beta.spokanecity.org/smc/?Chapter=10.08D](https://beta.spokanecity.org/smc/?Chapter=10.08D)