

Bylaw No. 8244

The Noise Bylaw, 2003

**Codified to Bylaw No. 9928
(November 22, 2023)**

BYLAW NO. 8244
The Noise Bylaw, 2003

The Council of The City of Saskatoon enacts:

Short Title

1. This Bylaw may be cited as The Noise Bylaw, 2003.

Purpose

2. This Bylaw is enacted to protect, preserve and promote the safety, health, welfare, peace and quiet of the citizens of The City of Saskatoon through the reduction, control, and prevention of loud and excessive noise, or any noise which unreasonably disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensitivity.

Definitions

3. In this Bylaw,
 - (a) **“agricultural district”** means an agricultural district as established by the *Zoning Bylaw*;
 - (b) **“dwelling”** means a dwelling as defined in the *Zoning Bylaw*;
 - (c) **“dwelling unit”** means a dwelling unit as defined in the *Zoning Bylaw*;
 - (d) **“engine brake”** means a device commonly used in a truck, power unit or semi-trailer unit to slow or brake the vehicle by means of closing the exhaust valves on the engine of the vehicle, or any similar device;
 - (e) **“industrial district”** means an industrial district as established by the *Zoning Bylaw*;
 - (f) **“justice”** means a judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan or a presiding justice of the peace;

- (g) **“light motor vehicle”** means a motor vehicle designed for transporting people or goods on a street that has a gross vehicle weight rating that is equal to or less than 4,536 kilograms, such as passenger cars, motorcycles, pick-up trucks, multi-purpose vehicles, vans and minivans;
- (h) **“motorcycle”** means a motorcycle or motor tricycle as defined in the federal *Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations*;
- (i) **“motor vehicle”** means a motor vehicle as defined in *The Traffic Safety Act*;
- (j) **“outdoor public event”** means an outdoor concert, sporting event, festival, attraction or similar event, whether held on private or public property, to which the public-at-large is invited or admitted, with or without charge;
- (k) **“permitted premises”** means a permitted premises as defined in *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Act, 1997*;
- (l) **“power unit”** means a power unit as defined in *The Traffic Safety Act*;
- (m) **“residential district”** means a residential district as established by the *Zoning Bylaw*;
- (n) **“semi-trailer”** means a semi-trailer as defined in *The Traffic Safety Act*;
- (o) **“truck”** means a truck as defined in *The Traffic Safety Act*.

Scope

4. (1) This Bylaw applies to the control of all sound originating within the jurisdictional limits of The City of Saskatoon.
- (2) This Bylaw is intended to apply to making, or knowingly permitting to be made, any unreasonably loud or excessive noise, disturbance or commotion in any dwelling, place of business or other structure, or upon any public street, park or other place or building.

The ordinary and usual sounds and noises incidental to the occupation and use of property and the activities of persons in the City, when conducted in accordance with usual standards or practices and in a manner that will not unreasonably disturb the peace and comfort of adjacent residences or

which will not detrimentally affect the operators of adjacent places of business, are not intended to be subject to the provisions of this Bylaw.

General Prohibition

5. (1) No person shall make, continue, or cause to be made or continued, or suffer or permit to be made or continued:
 - (a) any unreasonably loud or excessive noise;
 - (b) any noise which unreasonably disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of reasonable persons of ordinary sensitivity within the jurisdictional limits of the City; or
 - (c) any noise which is so harsh, prolonged, unnatural, or unusual in time or place as to occasion unreasonable discomfort to any persons within the neighbourhood from which said noises emanate, or as to unreasonably interfere with the peace and comfort of neighbours or their guests, or operators or customers of places of business, or as to detrimentally or adversely affect such residences or places of business.
- (2) Factors for determining whether a sound is unreasonably loud or excessive include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) the proximity of the sound to sleeping facilities, whether residential or commercial;
 - (b) the land use, nature and zoning of the area from which the sound emanates and the area where it is received or perceived;
 - (c) the time of day or night the sound occurs;
 - (d) the duration of the sound;
 - (e) the volume of the sound;
 - (f) the nature of the sound;
 - (g) whether the sound is recurrent, intermittent or constant; and
 - (h) the nature of the event or activity from which the sound emanates.
- (3) In the absence of other evidence, or by way of corroboration of other evidence, a justice may infer from the evidence of a peace officer relating

to the conduct of a person or persons that a sound is unreasonably loud or excessive.

Motor Vehicle Noise

- 5.1 (1) No person shall operate or permit the operation of a motor vehicle in such a manner that it makes or causes to be made or continued any unreasonably loud or excessive noise.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), no person shall operate or permit the operation of a light motor vehicle that produces, or is capable of producing, exhaust sound that is louder than 101.3 decibels.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), whether a light motor vehicle produces, or is capable of producing, exhaust sound that is louder than 101.3 decibels shall be determined by testing the vehicle at a site designated by a police officer.
- (4) The owner or operator of a light motor vehicle shall, upon the request of a police officer and within the time required by the police officer, take the vehicle to any site designated by the police officer to have the vehicle tested to determine whether it produces, or is capable of producing, exhaust sound that is louder than 101.3 decibels.
- (5) If a test at a designated site determines that a light motor vehicle produces, or is capable of producing, exhaust sound that is louder than 101.3 decibels, the owner or operator of the vehicle shall, before continuing to operate the vehicle, take whatever action is necessary to ensure the vehicle's potential exhaust sound is reduced to equal to or below 101.3 decibels.

Noises Prohibited

6. The following acts are deemed to be violations of this Bylaw *per se*. This enumeration does not constitute an exclusive list:
- (a) *Lawn Mowers, Snow Blowers and Similar Devices*: In residential districts, the operation of power equipment or machinery used in lawn and garden care or property maintenance including any lawn mower, leaf blower, hedge trimmer, power fan, edge trimmer, line trimmer, roto-tiller, snow blower, compressor, internal combustion engine or similar equipment, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a weekday, and 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday or a statutory holiday.

- (b) *Radios, Televisions, Stereos, Compact Disc Players, Musical Instruments and Similar Devices:* The use or operation of a radio, television, compact disc player, stereo, “boombox”, “ghetto blaster”, musical instrument or similar device that produces or reproduces sound in a manner that is plainly audible to any person other than the player or operator of the device, and those who are voluntarily listening to the sound, and unreasonably disturbs the peace, quiet and comfort of persons residing in the vicinity, including persons residing in separate dwelling units within the building from which the sound emanates.
- (c) *Idling Trucks:* In residential districts, the idling of any truck or power unit or the operation of any motor, “reefer” or similar device on a semi-trailer for more than twenty (20) minutes.
- (d) *Engine Brakes:* The use of an engine brake on any motor vehicle driven within the City of Saskatoon, except in cases of emergency.
- (e) *Air Horns:* The use of an air horn on any motor vehicle within the City, except in cases of emergency.
- (f) *Construction or Repair of Buildings:* In all areas of the City except agricultural and industrial districts, the construction, demolition, alteration or repair of any building or structure between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a weekday, and 10:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on a Sunday or a statutory holiday, that produces sound that is plainly audible across the property line of the property from which the sound emanates and is unreasonably loud or excessive. In cases of emergency, construction noises are exempt from this provision.
- (g) *Outdoor Public Events:* The use or operation of a loudspeaker, amplifier, public address system radio, “boombox”, “ghetto blaster”, stereo, musical instrument or similar device that produces, reproduces or amplifies sound at an outdoor public event, other than during the following hours:
 - (i) on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.;
 - (ii) on a Friday or Saturday, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and
 - (iii) on a Sunday or statutory holiday, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

If approval has been obtained from the City to extend the hours for the use or operation of amplification equipment at any outdoor public event in accordance with section 8 of this Bylaw, amplification equipment may be used at the event during the extended hours.

- (h) *Permitted Premises:* Any unreasonably loud or excessive noise in a permitted premises or in a patio area which is part of the permitted premises which can be heard in a residential district and which unreasonably disturbs the peace, quiet and comfort of persons in the residential district.

Exemptions

- 7. Sounds caused by the following are exempt from the prohibitions set out in this Bylaw:
 - (a) The reasonable sounding of any bell by a church or other religious organization.
 - (b) The reasonable sounding of any bell, siren, whistle or similar device by a school or other educational institution.
 - (c) The reasonable sounding of any bell, chime or similar device or the use or operation of any musical instrument by a charitable organization soliciting donations.
 - (d) A parade for which a permit has been obtained from the City.
 - (e) An outdoor political rally, public protest, demonstration, religious service, memorial service or other similar gathering.
 - (f) The construction, repair and maintenance of streets, bridges, sidewalks, alleys, water mains, storm sewer mains, sanitary sewer mains, electrical facilities and any other works by or on behalf of The City.
 - (g) The annual summer fair and exhibition conducted by the Saskatoon Prairieland Park Corporation and the Western Development Museum Board.
 - (h) Lawfully discharged fireworks.

Extension of Hours for Outdoor Public Events

8. (1) The City may, upon written application, grant approval, in accordance with the Special Event Application process, to extend the hours during which amplification equipment may be used at an outdoor public event.
 - (1.1) For night time outdoor public events that do not have an established history of three consecutive years, applications to extend the hours during which amplification equipment may be used as provided for in clause 6(g) shall be subject to approval by the Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services Committee.
 - (1.2) The General Manager of Community Services or their designate shall have the authority to approve all other requests to extend the hours during which amplification equipment may be used at an outdoor public event.
- (2) In exercising its authority pursuant to subsection (1), the City may grant its approval with or without conditions.

Offences and Penalties

9. (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), every person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction:
 - (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine:
 - (i) for a first offence, not less than \$100.00;
 - (ii) for a second offence, not less than \$200.00; and
 - (iii) for a third or subsequent offence, not less than \$400.00;and not more than \$10,000.00 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of not more than \$10,000.00 for each day during which the offence continues; and
 - (b) in the case of a corporation, to a fine:
 - (i) for a first offence, not less than \$100.00;
 - (ii) for a second offence, not less than \$200.00; and

(iii) for a third or subsequent offence, not less than \$400.00;

and not more than \$25,000.00 and, in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each day during which the offence continues.

(2) Every person who uses engine brakes in contravention of Section 6(d) of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction:

(a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not less than \$250.00 and not exceeding \$10,000.00 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of not more than \$10,000.00 for each day during which the offence continues;

(b) in the case of a corporation, to a fine not less than \$250.00 and not exceeding \$25,000.00 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of not more than \$25,000.00 for each day during which the offence continues.

(3) In default of payment of a fine imposed under either Subsection (1) or Subsection (2), the individual convicted may be imprisoned for a term of not more than one year.

(4) (a) Notwithstanding Subsection (1) and Subsection (2) in the case of a person who contravenes a provision of this Bylaw for the first time, a peace officer may issue a notice of violation to that person;

(b) The notice of violation shall provide that, if the person pays the City the sum of:

(i) \$250.00 in the case of a violation of Section 6(d); or

(ii) \$100.00 in the case of any other violation;

within 14 calendar days of the date of the notice of violation, the person shall not be prosecuted for the contravention.

(c) The fine may be paid:

(i) in person, during regular office hours, to the cashier located at City Hall, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan;

(ii) by deposit, at the depository located at the main entrance to City Hall, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; or

- (iii) by mail addressed to the Office of the City Treasurer, City Hall, 222 - 3rd Avenue North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 0J5.
- (5) Notwithstanding Subsection (4), if it is, in the opinion of a peace officer, in the public interest to compel a person who has contravened a provision of this Bylaw for the first time to appear before a justice under this Bylaw, the peace officer may issue a summons that requires the person to appear before a justice without the alternative of paying the specified amount to avoid prosecution.
- (6) If, in the opinion of a prosecutor it is appropriate, the prosecutor may, on or before the court appearance date, permit the person mentioned in Subsection (5) to pay the specified amount to avoid prosecution.

Severability

- 10. A determination of invalidity or unconstitutionality by a court of competent jurisdiction of any provision of this Bylaw shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Bylaw.

Bylaw No. 6052 Repealed

- 11. Bylaw No. 6052 is repealed.

Coming Into Force

- 12. This Bylaw shall come into force on the first day of December, 2003.

Read a first time this 6th day of October, 2003.

Read a second time this 6th day of October, 2003.

Read a third time and passed this 6th day of October, 2003.

"James Maddin"
Mayor

"Marlene Hall" "SEAL"
A/City Clerk