

**Brunswick Hills Township, Medina County, Ohio**  
**Resolution #45-2020**  
**A Resolution controlling noise nuisances.**

**WHEREAS**, O.R.C. Section 505.172 authorizes a township to exercise powers of local self-government within the unincorporated area township and to adopt and enforce within the unincorporated area of the township local police, sanitary and other similar regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, O.R.C. Section 505.172 authorizes the Board of Trustees of Brunswick Hills Township to impose civil fines for the violation of a resolution adopted under O.R.C. Section 505.172 (E) Whoever violates any regulation or order adopted under division (B) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. Fines levied and collected under this section shall be paid into the township general revenue fund.

**WHEREAS**, noise can, and does, create a nuisance that may adversely affect adjacent or neighboring property owners or persons; and

**WHEREAS**, when a nuisance condition is created, the health, safety, and welfare of Township residents are threatened and adversely affected.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Trustees, Brunswick Hills Township, Medina County, Ohio that the following legislation be adopted.

**Section 1. DEFINITIONS**

All definitions and terminology used in this Resolution not defined below shall be in conformance with applicable publications of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or its successor body.

As used in this Resolution:

**Modified Exhaust System**

An exhaust system in which the original noise abatement devices have been physically altered causing them to be less effective in reducing noise or the original noise abatement devices have either been removed or replaced by noise abatement devices which are not as effective in reducing noise as the original devices, or devices which have been added to the original noise abatement devices such that noise levels are increased.

**Commercial Area**

Any office building, local retail, and business districts as set forth in the Township Zoning Resolution, including any parcel or real property located within a business district

Construction  
Any site preparation, assembly, erection, substantial repair, alteration, or similar action, but excluding demolition, for or on public or private right of way, structures, utilities or similar property.

**Demolition**

Any dismantling or intentional destruction or removal of structures, utilities, public or private right-of-way surfaces, or similar property.

**Emergency**

Any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical trauma or property damage or loss which demands immediate action.

**Emergency Work**

Any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency.

**Light Motor Vehicle**

Any automobile, van, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, motor scooter, dune buggy, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, minibike or trucks with gross vehicular weight of less than 8,000 pounds.

**Motor Vehicle**

Every vehicle defined as a motor vehicle in the Ohio Revised Code.

**Motorcycle**

Every vehicle defined as a motorcycle in the Ohio Revised Code.

**Motorized Bicycle**

Every vehicle defined as a motorized bicycle in the Ohio Revised Code.

**Noise**

Any sound which annoys or disturbs persons of normal sensibilities or which causes or tends to cause an adverse psychological or physiological effect on persons.

**Noise Disturbance**

Any sound which endangers or injures the safety or health of humans or animals; annoys or disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities; or, endangers or injures personal or real property.

**Person**

Any individual, association, partnership or corporation and includes any officer, employee, department, agency or instrumentality of a state or any political subdivision of a state.

**Place of Public Entertainment**

Any commercial facility open to the general public for purposes of entertainment.

**Plainly audible**

Any sound produced by a mechanical or electronic sound making device or instrument that can be heard by a person using his normal hearing faculties. The person need not determine with particularity the type of sound, the words, phrases, or lyrics heard and the detection of a rhythmic bass or other reverberating type sound is sufficient to constitute plainly audible sound.

**Powered Model Vehicle**

Any self-propelled airborne, waterborne, or land borne plane, vessel or vehicle which is not designed to carry persons, including but not limited to, any model airplane, boat, car or rocket.

**Public Right of Way**

Any street, avenue, boulevard, highway, sidewalk, alley or other roadway.

**Real Property Boundary**

An imaginary line along the ground surface, and its vertical extension, which separates the real property owned by one person from that owned by another person.

**Residential Area**

Single family, two family and multi-family zoning district classifications, or any other designed residential district.

**Sound**

An oscillation in pressure, particle displacement, particle velocity, or other physical parameter, in a medium with internal forces that cause compression and rarefaction of that medium. The description of sound may include any characteristic of such sound, including duration, intensity and frequency.

**Section 2. NOISE DISTURBANCES PROHIBITED**

- A. No person shall make, continue, cause to be made, suffer, allow, or permit within the unincorporated area of Brunswick Hills Township, Medina, County, Ohio any unreasonably loud, disturbing or unnecessary

noise or noises of such character, intensity or duration that annoy, disturb, injure or endangers the peace, health, comfort, safety or quiet of any individual.

- B. This Resolution shall not apply to noncommercial public speaking and public assembly activities conducted on any public space or public right-of-way.
- C. This Resolution applies to all liquor establishments to which a "D" Permit has been issued by the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

### **Section 3. SPECIFIC PROHIBITIONS**

The creation of noise or noises in the following manner are declared to be in violation of Section A, but this enumeration shall not be deemed exclusive:

#### **Air Conditioners**

Maintaining any refrigeration machinery or air conditioning, consisting of air compressors or rotating or reciprocating machinery, in such a manner as to create a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary.

#### **Construction**

Operating or permitting the operation of any tools or equipment used in construction, drilling or demolition work noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. such that the sound therefrom creates a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary, except for emergency work of public service utilities or by special variance. This paragraph shall not apply to the use of domestic power tools subject to subsection (C) hereof.

#### **Domestic Power Tools**

Operating or permitting the operation of any mechanically powered saw, drill, sander, grinder, lawn or garden tool, lawnmower, or other similar device used outdoors, other than powered snow removal equipment, noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or on Saturday or Sunday before the hour of 8:00 a.m.

#### **Emergency Signaling Devices**

The intentional sounding or permitting the sounding outdoors of any fire, burglar or civil defense alarm, siren, whistle or similar stationary emergency signaling device, except for emergency purposes or for testing, as provided in this Resolution. Testing of a stationary emergency signaling device shall occur at the same time of day each time such a test is performed, but not before 7:00 a.m. or after 11:00 p.m. or the closing time of a commercial establishment, whichever shall occur later. Any such testing shall use only the minimum cycle test time. In no case shall such time exceed sixty seconds. Testing of the complete emergency signaling system, including the functioning of the signaling device and the personnel response to the signaling device, shall not occur before 7:00 a.m. or after 11:00 p.m. In no case shall such test exceed ten seconds.

#### **Explosives, Firearms and Similar Devices**

The using of firing or explosives, firearms or similar devices which create impulsive sound so as to cause a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary or on a public space or right of way, without first obtaining a special variance. This Resolution shall not apply to permitted hunting or target shooting.

#### **Loading and Unloading Materials**

Loading, unloading, opening, closing, or other handling of boxes, crates, containers, building materials, garbage cans or similar objects noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to cause a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary.

#### **Loudspeakers/Public Address System**

1. Using, operating or permitting the operation of any loudspeaker, public address system, mobile sound vehicle or similar device amplifying sound therefrom on a public right of way or public space for any commercial purpose.
2. Using, operating or permitting for any noncommercial purpose any loudspeaker, public address system, mobile sound vehicle, or similar noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. such that the sound therefrom creates a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary.

#### Powered Model Vehicles

Operating or permitting the operation of a powered model vehicle or vehicles so as to create a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary or in a public space noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

#### Vehicle or Motorboat Repairs and Testing

Repairing, rebuilding, modifying or testing any motor vehicle, motorcycle, motorized bicycle or motorboat in such a manner as to cause a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary noise or sound which is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred and fifty feet (150') between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

#### Vehicles

1. It is unlawful for any person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on a street or highway to operate or amplify the sound produced by a radio, tape player or other mechanical sound-making device or instrument from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is:
  1. Plainly audible at a distance of 150 feet or more from the motor vehicle; or
  2. Louder than necessary for convenient hearing by persons inside the vehicle in areas adjoining churches, schools or hospitals.
2. The provisions of this Resolution shall not apply to any law enforcement motor vehicle equipped with any communication device necessary in the performance of law enforcement duties or to any emergency or public safety vehicle equipped with any communication device necessary in the performance of any emergency procedures.
3. The provisions of this Resolution do not apply to motor vehicles used for business or political purposes, which, in the normal course of conducting such business, use sound-making devices.
4. The provisions of this Resolution do not apply to the noise made by a horn or other warning device required or permitted by State law or these codified resolutions.
5. As used in this Resolution, "plainly audible" means any sound produced by a radio, tape player or other mechanical or electronic sound-making device or instrument, from within the interior or exterior of a motor vehicle, including sound produced by a portable sound-making device, that can be clearly heard outside the vehicle by a person using his or her normal hearing faculties, at a distance of 150 feet or more from the motor vehicle.
6. A Police Officer who hears a sound that is plainly audible, as defined herein, shall be entitled to measure the sound according to the following standards:
  1. The primary means of detection shall be by means of the Police Officer's ordinary auditory senses, so long as the Police Officer's hearing is not enhanced by any mechanical device, such as a microphone or hearing aid.
  2. The Police Officer's shall have a direct line of sight and hearing to the motor vehicle producing the sound so that he or she can readily identify the offending motor vehicle and the distance involved.
  3. The Police Officer's need not determine the particular words or phrases being produced or the name of any song or artist producing the sound. The detection of a rhythmic bass reverberating-type sound is sufficient to constitute a plainly audible sound.
7. The motor vehicle from which the sound is produced shall be located upon (stopped, standing or moving) any street or highway within the Township. Parking lots and driveways are included when any part thereof is open to the public for purposes of vehicular traffic.

8. The standards set forth in subsection (G) hereof, shall also apply to the detection of sound that is louder than necessary for the convenient hearing of persons inside the motor vehicle in areas adjoining churches, hospitals or parks.
9. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Resolution is guilty of a Minor Misdemeanor for each offense and shall be subject to the penalty provided in Section 7.

#### Dogs / Animals

The harboring or keeping of any dog or animal which, by loud, frequent, habitual or continued barking, howling or yelping, disturbs or annoys any person in the vicinity, where such noise can be heard outside the property line of the premises at which the dog or animal is kept. Any person who shall allow any dog or animal to remain, be lodged or fed within any dwelling, building, yard or enclosure, which he occupies or owns, shall be considered as harboring such dog or animal. None of the provision of this paragraph shall apply to owners, operators, or employees of duly licensed veterinary hospitals; or to blind persons when a dog serves as a guide or leader.

#### Residential

The playing or permitting to be played of any music, radio, music player, television, audio system or musical instrument or the amplification of any sound in such a manner so as to annoy or disturb the peace, enjoyment, quiet, comfort or repose of any person of ordinary sensibilities, or at such volume which is plainly audible to persons other than those who are on or in the premises in which such device or instrument is being played and are voluntary listeners thereto.

#### Schools / Churches

The making of any unnecessary or unreasonable noises by a person or by his operation of any instrument, device, agency or vehicle within 150 feet of any school, church or building in which religious services are held, during school hours, or during public worship, respectively.

### **Section 4. INSPECTIONS**

Any Brunswick Hills Township Police Officer, in addition to any other authority vested in him, has the power, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter and inspect any dwelling, multi-family dwelling, building, structure or premises within the Township as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of this Resolution provided permission is obtained from the occupant or, in the case of unoccupied property, from the owner or his agent. If such permission is refused, or is otherwise unobtainable, a search warrant must be obtained upon the showing of probable cause to believe that a violation of this Resolution may exist, before such entry or inspection is made.

### **Section 5. SPECIAL VARIANCES**

1. The Board of Township Trustees or their designated representative shall have the authority, consistent with this Resolution, to grant special variances.
2. Any person seeking a special variance pursuant to this Resolution shall file an application with the Board of Township Trustees, or their designated representative. The application shall contain information which demonstrates that bringing the source of sound or activity for which the special variance is sought into compliance with this Resolution would constitute an unreasonable hardship on the applicant, on the community or other persons. Notice of an application for a special variance shall be given by the Board of Township Trustees or their representative to persons who frequent the area of the sound or activity and who may be adversely affected by the granting of the variance. Any individual who claims to be adversely affected by allowance of the special variance may file a statement with the Board of Township Trustees or their representative containing any information to support his or her claim.
3. Application for extension of time limits specified in special variances or for modification of other substantial conditions shall be treated like applications for initial special variances.

4. The Board of Township Trustees or their designated representative may issue guidelines approved by the Board of Township Trustees defining the procedures to be followed in applying for a special variance and the criteria to be considered in deciding whether to grant a special variance.
5. Enforcement of this Resolution shall be stayed as to any person filing an application for a special variance pursuant to this Resolution, until such time as the application is acted upon by the Board of Township Trustees or their designated representative.

#### **Section 6. EXCEPTIONS**

The provisions of this Resolution shall not apply to the following:

1. The emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency, or for the performance of emergency work.
2. Organized school-related programs, activities or parades or other public programs, activities or events authorized by the Board of Township Trustees or their designated representative.
3. Agricultural activities as defined in Ohio Revised Code, Section 1.61 are exempt from the provisions of this Resolution.

#### **Section 7. PENALTY**

Whoever violates any regulation or order adopted under this Resolution is guilty of a Minor Misdemeanor. Whoever violates this resolution shall be fined \$50 for the first violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation. Fines levied and collected under this Resolution shall be paid into the Township general revenue fund.

#### **Section 8 PRIVATE INJUNCTION RELIEF**

Pursuant to Section 515.172(F) of the Ohio Revised Code, any person allegedly aggrieved by another person's violation of a provision of this Resolution may seek in a civil action a declaratory judgment, an injunction, or other appropriate relief against the other person for committing the act or practice that violates the resolution. The court involved in the civil action may award to the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees limited to the work reasonably performed.

#### **Section 9 EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION**

These provisions shall become effective thirty (30) days from the date of adoption by the Board of Trustees as indicated below. The Township Clerk is hereby directed to post a copy of this Resolution in five (5) conspicuous places in the Township and to publish a summary of this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation for a period of three (3) consecutive weeks during the thirty (30) day period prior to the effective date of this Resolution. This resolution shall take effect at the earliest time as permitted by law.

It has been determined that all formal actions of the Board of Trustees of Brunswick Hills Township concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in open meetings of the Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees; and that all deliberations of the Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.