



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

August 4, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Liz Mullane, City Councilor, Justin
Tseng, City Councilor

AGENDA ITEM

26-138 - Resolution to Update the Noise Ordinance (to be referred to Resident Services Committee)

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas, the City of Medford's Noise Ordinance was last updated in 1974, and is lacking any recent updates to types of noise that can impact residents; and

Whereas, residents of Medford have shared a variety of ways in which different noise levels have been impacting their daily lives; and

Whereas, noise levels can also be considered a health hazard, and it is left to the community to help regulate and advise on noise restrictions throughout their city and towns; and

Whereas, the American Public Health Association has stated that "loud noise causes hearing loss and tinnitus and can contribute to non-auditory health problems. Chronic noise, even at low levels, can cause annoyance, sleep disruption, and stress that contribute to cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, metabolic disturbances, exacerbation of psychological disorders, and premature mortality. Noise interferes with cognition and learning, contributes to behavior problems, and reduces achievement and productivity. The health of more than 100 million Americans is at risk, with children among the most vulnerable."; and

Whereas, "The APHA policy statements below relate to this update by advocating for the following: reducing environmental stressors and their harmful effects on public health, rectifying the disproportionate burden of environmental hazards borne by disadvantaged populations, and encouraging actions to mitigate adverse effects. Including noise as a stressor in future APHA policy statements and updates is recommended."

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that the Council's Resident Services and Public Engagement Committee review the current noise ordinance to update its language, function, type and current usage.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None