



John J. Rich
Chief of Police

Ledyard Police Department



LT. Ken Creutz
Executive Officer

November 29, 2018

Chairman Kevin Dombrowski
Town of Ledyard
Land Use/Planning/Public Works Committee
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339

Re: Proposed Noise Ordinance

Dear Chairman Dombrowski,

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 15, 2018 in which you requested my recommendations on noise control for our community.

For purpose of historical perspective, Ledyard Police Department has investigated 65 noise complaints in 2018. Noise complaints can take several forms, including suspicious gunfire, fireworks, loud parties, loud music, and in cases of apartment complexes, sometimes loud televisions or conversations can generate complaints.

As you are aware, the current discussion which led to the proposed ordinance involves a single residence in Ledyard to which the department has responded 15 times since January 1, 2017. Nine of these responses were for incidents involving animals, and five were noise complaints.

I am on record and continue to hold the opinion that there is sufficient remedy in existing state statutes to allow the police department to effectively deal with the types of complaints we historically receive. Further, that in order to prove a violation of the proposed ordinance, specialized measuring equipment may be needed which further complicates the process and will require some training. I am also concerned about the mechanism for due process to contest a violation of the proposed ordinance. An appeals process for any violation of state statute already exists within the courts.

I believe the type of service in these matters currently provided by the Ledyard Police Department is consistent with the values of the department and the character of our community. Our officers generally make contact at the source of the noise, investigate, and attempt to resolve the situation with courtesy and diplomacy. If the person making the noise is not compliant, enforcement action may be taken at the responding officer's discretion.

Finally, I do not believe that the creation of an ordinance will be an effective deterrent in the situation which created this entire discussion. Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John J. Rich
Chief of Police

1 Attachment

Sec. 53a-181a. Creating a public disturbance: Infraction. (a) A person is guilty of creating a public disturbance when, with intent to cause inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof, he (1) engages in fighting or in violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior; or (2) annoys or interferes with another person by offensive conduct; or (3) **makes unreasonable noise.**

(b) Creating a public disturbance is an infraction.

Sec. 14-80a. Maximum noise levels. (a) No person shall operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles, nor shall the owner of any vehicle allow the vehicle to be operated, at any time or under any condition of grade, surface, speed, load, acceleration, deceleration or weather condition in such a manner as to exceed the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this section. This subsection applies to the total noise generated by a vehicle and shall not be construed as limiting or precluding the enforcement of any other motor vehicle noise provisions of this title.

(b) No person shall sell or offer for sale a new vehicle which produces a maximum decibel level which exceeds the decibel levels established under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, with the advice of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 establishing the maximum decibel levels permissible for motor vehicles, which shall not exceed the maximum decibel levels established for motor vehicles by federal law or regulation. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish the procedure for checking maximum decibel levels. The decibel level shall be measured fifty feet from the centerline of the vehicle. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for measuring at distances closer than fifty feet from the centerline of the vehicle. In such a case, the measuring devices shall be calibrated to provide for measurements equivalent to the noise limit established by this section measured at fifty feet.

(d) Violation of the provisions of this section shall be an infraction