

UPDATES FOR PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL ON THE NOISE CONTROL OFFICE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30TH / 2 PM TIME CERTAIN

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE NOISE OFFICE

- Focus on highest priorities with One field staff person
- Increase (IPS) Informal Problem Solving approaches
- Magnify impact of noise variances to help solve problems at earliest stage
- Move basic permits currently in Parks to more involvement with Parks staff
- Increase efficiency in citation process to resolve repeat offender cases earlier
- Explore new ways to increase field contacts with one primary field person
- Stabilize team after 18 or 19 moves of the location of noise staff in last 20 years

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF NOISE CONTROL OFFICE IN PORTLAND

- Summer of 1976 Portland established first comprehensive urban noise office
- Dr. Paul Herman was the first Noise Control Officer
- Code was written and established with research money and time, funded by the Federal Government
 - Funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - And from the United States Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Incorporates the only citizen-based review board
 - Noise Review Board

CURRENT STAFFING IN NOISE

3.5 FTE

The Noise Office efficiently works with just 3½ FTE to best serve the entire community of Portland.

- Noise Control Officer :

- Sworn officer with all duties and authorities of a police officer for the purpose of enforcing Title 18
- Nationally recognized level of expertise in Portland's Noise Office approach

- Administrative duties covered by:

- Assistant Program Specialist (.5 FTE currently)
- Office Support Specialist (1 FTE)

- Noise Inspector (1 FTE)

THREE PRIMARY ELEMENTS OF THE NOISE CONTROL OFFICE

1. Variances to the Portland City Code Title 18

- Resolving complaints at front end
- Allow a higher decibel level for cultural events in our community

2. Complaint Response:

- Noise staff responding to a wide range of issues with a priority 1 to 3 classification

3. Noise Review Board

- Reviewing City code Title 18 variances for large construction projects and cultural events in Portland
- Setting the tone for changing the code and approaches for addressing emerging urban noise pollution sources

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF VARIANCE TYPES

- Minor Noise variances
 - a) Block parties, weddings, film and TV shoots, and small cultural events
 - I. Park-based events or locations outside a city park
- High Impact Community, Cultural and Entertainment Events
- Construction
 - a) Commercial and governmental infrastructure-based requests
- Noise Review Board

OVER VIEW OF ANNUAL VARIANCE (FY 2014- 2015 AND 2015-2016)

Noise Variances	High Impact events	Minor Variances	Construction	NRB	Annual Totals
FY 2014 to 2015	99	445	96	9	= 649
FY 2015 to 2016	130	393	102	16	= 641

CONSTRUCTION VARIANCES

2007 THROUGH JUNE 2017

Fiscal Year	Construction	Total all variance types	Percentage Construction of Total Variances
2007- 2008	68	522	13%
2008- 2009	54	486	11%
2009-2010	50	489	10%
2010- 2011	61	493	12%
2011- 2012	50	554	9%
2012- 2013	56	548	10%
2013- 2014	61	495	12%
2014- 2015	96	649	14%
2015- 2016	102	641	15%
2016- 2017	192	661	29%

COMPLAINT RESPONSE

- Concerns from community conveyed via multiple methods
- Response broken into three priority levels
- Types of response
 - Formal cases
 - IPS (Informal Problem Response)
 - Mediation referral to Resolutions NW

OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL NOISE COMPLAINTS (FY 2006-2007 & 2016-2017)

Fiscal year	Residential Music: Stereo/ Band	Residential Mechanical Equipment	Construction	Industrial and Commercial	Motor vehicles	Other	Annual Totals
Multiple Inspector Fiscal Year							
FY 2006 to 2007	197	92	103	146	49	8	= 595
Single Noise Inspector Fiscal Year							
FY 2016 to 2017	117	71	87	43	23	7	= 348

AMALGAMATED SUGAR CASE NE LOMBARD AT 2600 NE COLUMBIA



STADIUM FRED MEYER LOADING NOISE AND NEIGHBORING APARTMENTS



INFORMAL PROBLEM SOLVING (IPS) AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

- Mystery Pounding Noises in Woodlawn, Concordia, and Vernon Neighborhoods
 - Amalgamated Sugar
- Late night unloading sounds and the Fred Meyers Stadium store
- Interagency cooperation with Parks Bureau on minor noise permits
- Citing violators through use of police data and reports

UPCOMING PRIORITIES

- Continued work by the NRB's night-time construction workgroup
- The Noise Review Board will be addressing the idea that appeals go to the Code Hearings Office for all non-NRB varianced work
- Revisit Council direction to address night time garbage truck noise
- Explore Zoning classification for EX zoned areas of Pearl Neighborhood, as Mixed use not Commercial to protect with lower allowed Decibel levels
- Noise Review Board and Noise staff to bring forward NRB suggestions on pile driving