



DPIE's Role in Combating **NOISE** Pollution



The County Code has protections in place to uphold public safety, including noise pollution, which is detrimental to everyone's health. Long-term exposure to noise can cause negative health effects on the cardiovascular and metabolic systems, and cognitive impairment in children. The World Health Organization defines noise above 65 decibels (dB) as noise pollution and becomes harmful when it exceeds 75 dB and is painful above 120 dB. Sound that crosses between residential and non-residential areas must not exceed the level set for residential areas (65 dBA between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.; 55 dBA between 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.).

DPIE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

DPIE investigates **COMMERCIAL** entities (businesses and industrial sites) that generate noise levels disturbing residential areas. These may include:

- Truck deliveries late at night with loud back-up signals beeping;
- Loud music from night clubs, skating rinks, etc., that exceeds levels set for residential areas; and/or
- Construction noises late at night or very early in the morning.

DPIE may also be included in loud party complaints and pop-up events if an owner, tenant or occupant engages in activities that are prohibited in residential neighborhoods and zones, including unpermitted events that involve admission fees and/or tickets for food or alcoholic beverage sales to the general public without the proper licenses. The Prince George's County Police and the Department of the Environment (DoE) also help abate noise pollution sources.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Police Department responds to noise complaints:

- At loud parties and other events at private residences;
- At construction sites;
- Regarding loud vehicles and those with unlawfully modified exhaust systems.

DOE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of the Environment's Animal Services Division responds to noise complaints originating from an animal source.

If you experience excessive noise disturbances in your neighborhood, you may file a complaint by calling 311, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Federal and County holidays, or by reporting information 24/7 on the PGC311 website at www.pgc311.com. Remember to include the address of the property in question and a brief description of the complaint.