



## The Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement's (DPIE) Role in Combating Noise Pollution

Like other Code Enforcement concerns, the County Code has protections in place to uphold public safety. One of those public safety concerns is noise pollution, which is detrimental to everyone's health. Long-term exposure to noise can cause disturbances in sleep and a variety of negative health effects on the cardiovascular and metabolic systems, as well as cognitive impairment in children. The World Health Organization defines noise above 65 decibels (dB) as noise pollution. To be precise, noise 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 PGC311 at 3-1-1, 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 website at [www.pgc311.com](http://www.pgc311.com). Remember to include the address of the property in question and a brief description of the complaint.