

NOISE ORDINANCE  
FOR ONTWA TOWNSHIP  
(Ordinance No. 70-3)

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING LOUD, UNNECESSARY OR UNUSUAL NOISES  
WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED PORTIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ONTWA,  
COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN; AND PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR  
THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

The Township of Ontwa ordains:

ARTICLE I - DECLARATION OF POLICY

Section 1. Declaration of policy. It is hereby found and declared that:

- A. The making and creation of loud, unnecessary and unusual noises is a condition which has existed for some time and the extent and volume of such noises are increasing; and
- B. Such loud, unnecessary or unusual noises which are prolonged or which are unusual or unnatural as to time, place, or use, affect and are a detriment to public health, and the comfort, convenience, safety, welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants of the Township of Ontwa.
- C. The provisions and prohibitions hereinafter contained and enacted are necessary to the public interest and are in pursuance of and for the purpose of securing and promoting the public health and comfort, rights of privacy, convenience, safety, welfare, and prosperity of the inhabitants of the Township of Ontwa and to secure the peaceful enjoyment by the people of their rights to use the public streets, public parks and public places and to secure the peace and quiet of the Township of Ontwa inhabitants.

ARTICLE II - LOUD, UNNECESSARY, UNUSUAL NOISES

Section 1. Unnecessary noises generally. No person shall make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise which unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or

endangers the comfort, convenience, safety, health, welfare or repose of persons in the vicinity thereof, unless the making, continuing, or causing to be made or continued of such noise cannot be prevented and is necessary for the protection or preservation of property or of the health, safety, life or limb of some person.

Section 2. Loud, unnecessary and unusual noises specifically.

The following acts, among others are declared to be loud, unnecessary or unusual noises in violation of this Ordinance, but this enumeration of acts shall not be deemed to be exclusive, namely:

- A. Animals and Birds or Fowl. The keeping of any animal, bird or fowl which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort or repose of any persons in the vicinity.
- B. Automobiles and All Other Motor Vehicles. Automobiles, snowmobiles, power boats, motorcycles and other motor vehicles operated in a manner which creates unusual, unnecessary or unreasonable noise (i.e., un-muffled exhaust, screeching of tires, racing of a motor or motors, the inadequate or defective operation of any part thereof or in any similar manner), except where such noise is a necessary consequence of safe driving.
  - 1) Exhausts. The discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any stationary internal combustion engine, or motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom.
  - 2) Defect in Vehicle or Loads. The use of any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle so out of repair, or so loaded as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.
  - 3) Mufflers.
    - a. No person shall operate any motor or motor vehicle within the Township unless the motor is equipped with a muffler in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise or annoying smoke. If sound in excess of the sound limit (85 decibels) shall emanate from a motor, such evidence

- shall constitute and be admitted as prima facie evidence that it was producing excessive or unusual noises.
- b. No person shall sell or give away for use upon, or install, or use on any motor vehicle any type of muffler or exhaust system that shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in any manner that will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above the sound limit.

Definitions:

1. "Decibel" shall be employed as the unit for measurement of relative sound levels as indicated by a sound level meter having those properties essential for the purpose of administration and enforcement of this ordinance.
  2. "Person" shall mean any person, firm or corporation.
  3. "Sound limit" shall mean all sound emanating from any motor vehicle in excess of 85 decibels as measured at any point within twenty (20) feet of the point of exhaust while the vehicle is parked with the motor running at its highest speed, or measured at a point not less than twenty (20) feet from a vehicle or motor in motion as said vehicle shall pass the sound level meter.
- C. Construction or Repairing of Buildings. The erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except in case of urgent necessity in the interest of public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the Building Inspector.
- D. Explosives, Fireworks, etc. The exploding of any fireworks, explosives, etc., except by application and approval of a special non-continuous permit to be issued by the appropriate local law enforcement body.
- E. Hawkers, Peddlers, Vendors. Crying, shouting, calling by peddlers, hawkers and vendors for the purpose of advertising.
- F. Horns, Siren, Signaling Devices, etc. The sounding of any horn or signaling device except as an acceptable danger warning or to give notice of time. The creation, by means of any such signaling device, of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; for any unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.

G. Machinery & Equipment. The operation of any noise-creating blower, power fan, internal combustion engine, air compressor, steam engine or equipment which creates noises sufficient to cause annoyance to the public or disturb the rest and quiet of persons residing or occupying property near enough thereto to be annoyed thereby.

H. Radios, Phonographs, etc. The playing, using or operating or permitting the playing, using or operating of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing of the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle, chamber or in or on a porch, patio or similar improved area, in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntary listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. at a sound limit that exceeds 85 decibels measured at a point not less than twenty feet from any point of the exterior of the building, structure or place of origin of the sound or the amplification thereof, or in such a manner as to be audible for a distance in excess of three hundred feet from the place or places where such device or apparatus will be located, and so that said volume of sound is unreasonably loud, raucous, jarring, disturbing, or a nuisance to persons within the area of audibility, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

I. Sound Amplification Devices.

1) Registration Required. No person, firm or corporation shall use or operate any sound device, apparatus or sound amplification system for public or commercial purposes in the Township without first filing a written registration statement with the Ontario Township Clerk. This registration certificate or statement shall be filed in duplicate at least five (5) days prior to the date on which such sound device or apparatus is to be used or operated and shall state the following:

- a. Name and address of the applicant.
  - b. Address of place of business of applicant.
  - c. If sound device is to be used on motor vehicle, license number and motor number of said vehicle, name and address of the person who owns the vehicle, name and address of person having direct charge of said vehicle, names and addresses of all persons who will use or operate said vehicle.
  - d. The purpose for which the sound device or apparatus will be used.
  - e. A general statement as to the section or sections of the Township in which the sound device or apparatus will be used.
  - f. The proposed hours of operation of the sound device or apparatus.
  - g. The number of days of proposed operation of the sound device or apparatus.
  - h. A general description of the sound amplifying equipment which is to be used.
  - i. The maximum sound producing power of the sound amplifying equipment which is to be used.
- 2) The Registration Permit Must Also State the Following:
- a. The wattage to be used.
  - b. The volume of sound which is proposed to be used, measured in decibels.
  - c. The approximate maximum distance for which sound will be thrown from the sound device or apparatus.
- 3) Registration Statement Amendment: All persons using or causing to be used sound equipment for commercial or non-commercial purposes shall amend any registration statement filed within forty-eight (48) hours after any change in the information therein furnished.
- 4) Registration and Identification: The Ontwa Township Clerk shall return to each applicant one (1) copy of said registration statement duly certified by the Township Clerk as a correct copy of said application. Said certified copy of the application shall be in the possession of any person operating the sound equipment at all times while the sound amplifying equipment is in operation and said copy shall be promptly displayed and shown to any law enforcement officer upon request.

- 5) Regulations for Use. Commercial or non-commercial use of any sound device, or apparatus in, on, near or adjacent to any public street, park or place shall be subject to the following regulations, a copy of which shall be delivered to the applicant at the time of delivery of the duly certified registration statement set forth above:
- a. The only sounds permitted are for the general purpose of music or human speech.
  - b. Sound amplifying equipment shall not be operated on sound truck unless said truck upon which such equipment is mounted is operated at a speed of at least ten (10) miles per hour, except when said truck is stopped or impeded by traffic. Where stopped by traffic, the said sound amplifying equipment shall not be operated for longer than one (1) minute at such said stop.
  - c. Sound shall not be issued within five hundred (500) feet of a school, courthouse, or church, during the hours of school, court, or worship respectively, or within five hundred (500) feet of any hospital or similar institution.
  - d. No amplifying device shall be operated on a sound truck or otherwise in any location where the Local Police Department upon investigation, shall determine that the conditions of over-crowding or of street repair or other physical conditions are such that the use of such a sound device or apparatus will deprive the public of the right of the safe, comfortable, convenient and peaceful enjoyment of any public street, place, park or place for other public purposes, or will constitute a threat to the safety of pedestrians or vehicle operators.
  - e. The human speech and music amplified shall not be profane, lewd, indecent, or slanderous.
  - f. The volume of sound shall be controlled so that it will not exceed 85 decibels measured at a point not less than twenty (20) feet from any point of amplification and/or will not be audible for a distance in excess of three hundred (300) feet from the place or places where such device or apparatus will be located, and so that said

volume is not unreasonably loud, raucous, jarring, disturbing, or a nuisance to persons within the area of audibility.

Exemptions: The provisions of this section on sound amplification devices shall not apply to the use or operation of any sound device or apparatus by any church or synagogue on or within its own premises, in connection with the religious rites or ceremonies of such church or synagogue, or to sound amplification devices used by the Ambulance, Fire or Police or other departments of the Township of Ontwa in the performance of their official duties.

J. Yelling, Shouting, etc. Unnecessary, annoying or prolonged yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, or singing particularly between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in the vicinity.

#### ARTICLE III

Penalties. General and specified violations of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be a nuisance per se. Any person, firm, corporation or other organization which violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or resists the enforcement of any provision of this Ordinance or any amendment thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or shall be imprisoned in the County Jail for not more than ninety (90) days, or both. Each day during which said violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

#### ARTICLE IV

Procedure. The Township Board, and the duly authorized attorney for the Township of Ontwa, the Prosecuting Attorney for the County or any owner or owners of real estate within the township in which such violation is located, may institute injunction, mandamus, abatement or other appropriate action or proceedings. The right and remedies provided herein are cumulative and in addition to all other remedies provided by law.

ARTICLE V

Validity. This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, sub-sections, sentences, phrases and clauses thereof are hereby declared to be severable,.. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section, sub-section, phrase or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, it is hereby provided that the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be effected thereby.

ARTICLE VI

Effective Date: The foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of Ontwa Township, Cass County, Michigan, on the 14th day of September, 1970, and ordered to take effect on the 26th day of October, 1970, the same being thirty (30) days after the publication thereof of the foregoing Ordinance.



I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Noise Ordinance for Ontwa Township No. 70-3, Cass County, Michigan, adopted on the 14th day of September, 1970.

Ada Barr  
Ada Barr, Clerk  
Ontwa Township

A resolution that the aforesaid Ordinance be enacted was made by member Robert Lane, and supported by member Jack Durben, . The names of the Township Board members and their vote on the foregoing Ordinance were as follows:

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Robert E. Lane | X          |           |
| Jack N. Durben | X          |           |
| Kay Fetters    | X          |           |
| Ada M. Barr    | X          |           |
|                |            |           |

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was published in the Edwardsburg Argus of Edwardsburg, Michigan, on the 24th day of September, 1970.

/s/ Ada Barr  
Ada Barr, Clerk  
Ontwa Township