

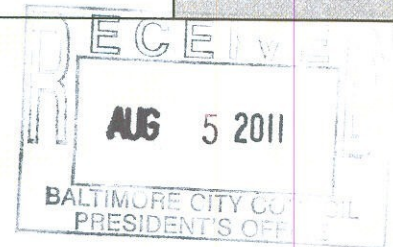


F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 11-0707 – Noise Regulations – Entertainment and Commercial Noise		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

July 5, 2011



The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to Council Bill 11-0707. The purpose of the bill is to prohibit certain noise or other sounds that can be heard within any part of a dwelling, located more than 50 feet from the property or vehicle in which the source of the sound is located.

Title 9 of the Health Code is one of the sources that provides the City's noise regulations.¹ In general, Title 9 regulates basic sound level standards based on decibel readings, entertainment and commercial noise, and amplified sounds in Market Center. The Health Department's administration and enforcement of these regulations, however, are limited. Environmental sanitarians, the Department's field investigators, are not police officers. Sanitarians work a regular work week, and none are scheduled past 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Moreover, they are plain-clothed employees who do not have the authority to arrest and are not trained or equipped to handle physical confrontation. Therefore, BCHD limits its investigations to the following noise complaints for the safety of its workers:

- Noise generated from air condition units, HVAC units, and generators;
- Noise emanating from any of its license facilities, *i.e.* food facilities, schools, assisted living, hospitals, group homes, etc.;
- Noise generated by music via sound speaker systems in public venues; and
- Picketers

It also administers applications for noise exemptions. All other noise complaints are enforced by the Police Department, which operates 24 hours a day and has trained and protected staff to handle potentially dangerous confrontations.

¹ Noise regulations can also be found in Title 12, Subtitle 2 and Subtitle 3 of the Zoning Code and Article 19, Subtitle 7.

Comments

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Michelle Spencer, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Olivia Farrow, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Health