

Can we reduce excessive noise in Midtown?

A guide for discussion and positive steps

Prepared by Matt Stephens • 3/22/2023

Intro

KC's noise control code (Code of Ordinances, Ch. 46¹) notes that excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public's health, welfare, safety, and quality of life; that reasonable solutions exist to substantially abate it; and that we are right to expect the city to pursue this end by such means (sec. 46-2).

What is "excessive noise"?

- Objectively, the Code deems a noise level excessive if it exceeds the decibel limits outlined for certain scenarios in Table 1 (sec. 46-4).
- Subjectively, the Code defines it as "sound which may jeopardize the health, welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life" (46-2.b) and "sound that disturbs the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants at any time with louder volume than necessary" (46-4.b).

Is excessive noise a problem in our community?

During times when the weather encourages us to open the windows of our homes, sit outside on our porches, enjoy a meal or beverage at a dining establishment's patio, ride a bicycle, or go for a walk, are we able to do so without the intrusion of noise defined above as "excessive"?

Are you able to sleep well with your windows open at night, especially on weekends?

I (Matt) have found that, when the weather turns nice, hoards of individuals fill our surrounding streets (Broadway, 39th, Westport Rd, SW Tfwy) with unnecessarily, intentionally, excessively loud vehicles (cars and trucks with modified exhaust mufflers, crotch rocket motorcycles, dirt bikes, ATVs) especially on nights and weekends.

1

https://library.municode.com/mo/kansas_city/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COORKAMIVOII_CH46
NOCO

