

Memo

To: City Council

From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director

Date: October 25, 2019

Re: Noise Ordinance Update

Over the past year, there have been a couple requests come before the City that seemed reasonable, and yet also potential violations of the city's Noise Ordinance. The ordinance is quite broad, and basically prohibits any public amplification of sound, speech or music that can be heard more than 50 feet from a private property line.

The first request was easily accommodated, because City Attorney Hitch determined that it was not the type of amplified sound the ordinance would have been intended to address (electrically amplified church bells).

However, a subsequent request by the Courthouse Square Association for a downtown public address system was a more straightforward violation. We also determined that many of the public events held each year in this community are technically violating the ordinance.

Earlier this year, the City Council authorized me to work with City Attorney Hitch to craft an update to this ordinance that allows local organizations with public events and other reasonable sound amplification needs to obtain permission from the City.

The ordinance before you now is that revision, and I request that the Council consider it for approval.