



MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: Amanda Hernandez, Director of Planning and Development Services – Planning and Development Services
Department
DATE: November 1, 2024
RE: Noise Ordinance Research

Commissioner Garber referenced a variety of communities during the discussion of the Tantra CUP Renewal. During the discussion the focus was on residential areas, however Tantra is located in and surrounded by Character District 5 – Downtown zoning. For comparison purposes the summary below includes the allowable decibel levels when measured in commercial areas.

San Marcos Noise Ordinance uses the state penal code limit for unreasonable noise which is 85 decibels maximum. Between the hours of 10 pm and 10 am noise is limited to 75 decibels.

<https://user-3vpeqil.cld.bz/San-Marcos-Development-Code-Effective-10-17-23/392/>

Below is a list of the communities referenced at Planning and Zoning Commission, a very high-level summary of the ordinance including the range of allowable decibels, and a link to the community's noise ordinance.

Denver

Noise levels are measured differently depending on the type of use making the noise and the land use of the property where the noise is being heard.

Range: 55-80 Decibels

Commercial to Commercial: 60-65 Decibels

https://library.municode.com/co/denver/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITIIREMUCO_CH36NO_CO_S36-6REMENOBESOREPRTA

Portland

Noise levels are measured differently depending on the type of use making the noise and the land use of the property where the noise is being heard.

Range: 55-75 Decibels

Commercial to Commercial: 70 Decibels

<https://www.portland.gov/code/18/10>

Houston

Noise levels are based on land use – residential or nonresidential.

Range: 58-68 Decibels

Nonresidential areas: 68 Decibels

https://library.municode.com/tx/houston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH30NOSOLERE_S30-5MAPESOLE

Georgetown

Noise levels are based on land use – residential, commercial, industrial, and other.

Range: 56-72 Decibels

Commercial areas: 56-63 Decibels

https://library.municode.com/tx/georgetown/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT8HESA_CH8.16NOCO_S8.16.030REDELE

Cedar Park

Noise levels are based on land use – residential or nonresidential.

Range: 50-85 Decibels

Nonresidential areas: 65-85 Decibels

Hutto

Like San Marcos, Hutto uses a city-wide measurement, not based on land use.

Range: 70-85 Decibels

<https://ecode360.com/39879694>

Austin

Noise levels are based on land use – residential or nonresidential.

Range: 75-85 Decibels

Nonresidential areas: 85 Decibels

https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT9PRAC_CH9-2NOAMSO_ART1GEPR_S9-2-4REDELE

New York City

While referenced in the discussion, it is unclear what source was used to provide data on noise levels in “residential areas in the various boroughs.”