

**CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL REGARDING NOISE ISSUES IN PORTLAND

DEVELOPED BY:

NOISE REVIEW BOARD

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NOISE REVIEW BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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Attachment A: Title 18, Noise Code

Attachment B: Public Information Plan

Final Approved Recommendations of the Noise Control Task Force and the Noise Review Board Regarding Garbage and Recycling Collection

(Adopted by Council on July 11, 2001)

7. GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

At the community meetings in October, residents from all areas of the city named noise from garbage trucks at night and the number of garbage truck trips per day on residential streets as major noise issues. Research on other cities showed that a small number of cities have banned night collection near residences.

Analysis of complaints in Portland showed that most complaints involve front end loader trucks. The Task Force appointed a subcommittee that included Task Force members and representatives of the garbage collection industry to study the issue. At subcommittee meetings, haulers said that banning night time collection would create other problems, including traffic congestion, safety issues such as higher rate of accidents, and higher costs, especially for small haulers and small commercial customers. The subcommittee also discussed franchising of commercial haulers as a way to reduce the number of trips per street, with some members pointing out that different customers on a street might request different schedules. With input from the subcommittee, the Task Force and the Noise Review Board make the following recommendations:

- 7.1 Pursue strategies that would reduce the noise produced by garbage trucks:
 - a. Direct the Office of Sustainable Development to continue a work group for at least six months or create a permanent committee to analyze in detail the source of the noise, develop and pilot test noise reducing options to address the sources, and work with manufacturers to produce those technologies that are successful in substantially reducing noise. Options to be considered include, cushioned forks, lower rpm pumps, plastic lids or dumpsters, slower operation, etc.

This research cannot be done within the schedule set for the Noise Control Task Force's final report.

- b. Require all equipment operators to participate in an educational program that demonstrates the effectiveness of certain operator techniques in reducing noise.
 - c. Based on the outcome of 7.1a, 1) establish a maximum sound standard for garbage truck equipment used in commercial collection that is attainable through the identified technology and 2) set up a program to certify that designated pieces of equipment meet that standard.
 - d. Set a maximum sound level for noise, measured at a set distance, produced by commercial garbage collection at night that is attainable using the new technologies and operator techniques described above. Allow a reasonable grace period for haulers to acquire the new technology.
- 7.2 Conduct a public education campaign that explains hauler practices, the new standards, and the complaint process.
- 7.3 Establish a mediation process to resolve complaints that occur, even though haulers and their equipment are in compliance with the above standard, that involves the complainant, the hauler, the hauler's customer, and, when necessary, the recognized neighborhood association. The Noise Office, the Office of Sustainable Development, and, when necessary, the Neighborhood Mediation Center will facilitate the process.
- 7.4 Direct the Office of Planning and Development Review, the Office of Sustainable Development and the City Attorney's Office to investigate approaches to reduce the number of garbage and recycling truck trips per day per street.

7.5 Because of the potential of the above recommendations for substantially reducing garbage truck noise and because of concerns with daytime-only collection that need more study, the Task Force does not recommend any restrictions on nighttime hours of collection at this time. However, if the other recommendations in this category are not successful in reducing the impact of nighttime noise from garbage collection within two years from the establishment of standards recommended in 7.1c and d, the Noise Review Board should investigate a full range of options to reduce noise from garbage collection at night, including restrictions on hours of collection. The investigation process should include representatives of neighborhoods, the collection industry, commercial customers and other affected parties.