**State Law reference**— Noise regulation, G.S. 160A-184.

Sec. 17-8. - Certain noises and sounds prohibited.

It shall be unlawful, except as expressly permitted in this chapter, to make, cause, or allow the making of any noise or sound which exceeds the limits set forth in sections 17-9 through 17-13.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.1; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-9. - Terminology and standards regarding noises and sounds.

- (a) Terminology and standards. All terminology used in the provisions of sections 17-7 through 17-16 not defined in subsection (b) of this section, shall be in conformance with applicable publications of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or its successor body.
- (b) Definitions:

Ambient sound means the total noise in a given environment.

A-weighted sound level means the sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting network. The level so read is designated dB(A).

A-weighted sound level meter means an instrument which includes an omnidirectional microphone, an amplifier, an output meter, and frequency weighting network for the measurement of sound. A sound meter that meets these requirements shall be utilized for conducting sound measurements.

Background noise means ambient sound.

Classification of use occupancies. For the purpose of defining the "use occupancy" all premises containing habitually occupied sleeping quarters shall be considered in residential use. All premises containing transient commercial sleeping quarters shall be considered tourist use. All premises containing businesses where sales, professional, or other commercial use is legally permitted shall be considered commercial use. All premises where manufacturing is legally permitted shall be considered manufacturing use. In case of multiple use, the more restrictive use category shall prevail. Hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, and church uses shall be considered residential uses. Any area not otherwise classified shall conform to commercial standards.

Decibel (dB) means a unit for describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micronewtons per square meter.

Emergency work means any work performed for the purposes of preventing or alleviating physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an existing or imminent peril.

Octave band sound level means the sound pressure level in decibels of the sound within a specific frequency band surrounding a specific center octave frequency (example: frequency band: 355-710 Hz; center octave frequency: 500 Hz), as measured on an octave band sound level meter set for measurement of sound level within that octave band. The level so read is designated dB, followed in parentheses by the center frequency of the octave band (example: 65 dB(500 Hz)).

Octave band sound level meter means an instrument which includes an omnidirectional microphone, an amplifier, an output meter, and octave band filter for octave band sound level measurement.

Sound pressure level means 20 times the logarithm to the base ten of the ratio of the RMS sound pressure to the reference of 20 micronewtons per square meter.

Weekend means that period of time between 12:00 midnight on Friday to 12:00 midnight on Sunday.

- (c) Measurement of sound.
  - (1) Instrumentation.

- a. Measurement of A-weighted sound level as provided for in this chapter shall be made with a sound level meter using the "A" weighting scale, in accordance with standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute.
- b. Octave band measurement of sound level shall be made with a sound level meter capable of octave band measurement of sound level in accordance with standards promulgated by the American National Standards Institute.
- (2) Personnel. The operator of a sound level meter, but not persons assisting that operator with nontechnical aspects of sound level measurement, must have received special training in sound measurement and must have received training in the use of the sound level meter used. The chief of police of the city shall prescribe minimum training standards for such operators.
- (3) Measurement procedures. Sound level measurement, to include A-weighted and octave band measurement, and recording of measurement readings shall be accomplished in accordance with procedures approved by the chief of police of the city. These measurement procedures shall conform to the operating instructions included in the operator's manual for the sound level meter used.
- (d) Background sound. When the lowest sound level reading of the highest ten percent of readings taken during a measurement period was ten or more decibels higher than the background sound level at the place of measurement shortly before or after the measurement period, as prescribed in section 17-10, it shall be presumed, for the purposes of the enforcement of sections 17-7 through 7-16, that the recorded sound levels in excess of the applicable sound level limit were caused by the source of sound, the activation of which caused the sound level to exceed the background sound level. The period of measurement of background sound level shall be at least one minute and readings shall be taken at five-second intervals. The proof of background sound level shall not be required for enforcement of sections 17-7 through 17-16.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.2; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

## Sec. 17-10. - Maximum permissible sound levels by use occupancy.

(a) No person shall operate or cause to be operated any source of sound from any occupancy in such a manner as to create a sound level which exceeds the limits set forth for the use occupancy category in Table 1 or Table 2 of this section for more than two minutes, or ten percent of the sound leve measurements taken at five-second intervals during a measurement period of at least five minutes to be measured at or beyond the property boundary of the land use from which the sound emanates.

## Table 1 Sound Levels by Use Occupancy Category

Use Occupancy  Category	Time	Sound Level Limit dB(A)
Residential or Public Space	6 a.m.—10 p.m.	<mark>60</mark>
	10 p.m.—6 a.m.	55
Commercial or Business	6 a.m.—10 p.m.	<mark>65</mark>
	10 p.m.—6 a.m.	<mark>60</mark>

Manufacturing, Industrial or Agricultural	At all times	<mark>75</mark>

Table 2

## Maximum Permissible Octave Bank Sound Levels by Use Occupancy Category and Frequency Band and Time of Day

Frequency	Residential or Public Space		Commercial or Business	
	6 a.m.—10 p.m.	10 p.m.—6 a.m.	6 a.m.—10 p.m.	10 p.m.—6 a.m.
31	88	<mark>72</mark>	90	88
<mark>63</mark>	79	71	85	79
125	69	65	73	69
250	62	<mark>57</mark>	<mark>67</mark>	<mark>62</mark>
500	58	51	61	<mark>58</mark>
1000	<mark>54</mark>	45	55	<mark>54</mark>
2000	50	43	51	51
4000	46	42	49	49
8000	43	41	47	47

(b) Any source of sound which is the subject of a specific exemption or special permit in sections 17-7 through 17-16 shall not be permitted to exceed by more than 15 dB(A) or dB in octave band measurement for all categories in those sound levels permitted in Table 1 or Table 2 of this section.

The following are exempt from the provisions of Table 1 of section 17-10:

- (1) Lawn mowers and agricultural equipment during daylight hours (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) when operated with all the manufacturers' standard mufflers and noise reducing equipment in use and proper operating condition;
- (2) Nonamplified crowd noises resulting from the activities such as those planned by student, governmental or community groups;

- (3) Construction operations for which building permits have been issued or construction operations not requiring permits due to ownership of the project by an agency of government: providing all equipment is operated in accord with the manufacturers' specifications and with all standard equipment manufacturer's mufflers and noise reducing equipment in use and in proper operating condition;
- (4) Noises of safety signals, warning devices, emergency pressure relief valves and bells and chimes of churches:
- (5) Noises resulting from any authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency;
- (6) Any other noise resulting from activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefor has been granted by the city in accordance with this section. Regulation of noises emanating from operations under permit shall be according to the conditions and limits stated on the permit and contained in this section;
- (7) Noises made by persons having obtained a permit to use the streets:
- (8) All noises coming from the normal operations of aircraft, not including scale model aircraft, and all noises emanating from the Fayetteville Municipal Airport property within the NEF (Noise Exposure Forecast) zones as established by a survey dated April 1977, and maintained in the office of the airport director.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.3; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-11. - Specific prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions set out in section 17-10 and the maximum permissible sound levels set out in Table 1 of section 17-10, and unless otherwise exempted in section 17-12, the following specific acts, or the causing or permitting thereof, are hereby declared to be unlawful:

- (1) Radios, television sets, musical instruments and similar devices. Operating, playing, or permitting the operation or playing of any radio, television, phonograph, musical instrument, electronic device, or similar device which produces or reproduces sound:
  - Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to create excessive and unnecessary noise across a residential real property line or within a noise sensitive area; or
  - b. In such a manner as to exceed the levels set forth for the occupancy category set forth in Table 1 of section 17-10.
- (2) Loudspeakers. Using or operating for any purpose any loudspeaker, loudspeaker system, amplifiers, or similar device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays in areas within or adjacent to residential, commercial, or noise sensitive areas, except for any noncommercial public speaking, public assembly, or other activity for which a special permit has been issued by the chief of police.
- (3) Street sales. Offering for sale, selling anything or advertising by shouting or outcry within any residential or commercial area or noise sensitive zone of the city except by special permit issued by the chief of police.
- (4) Loading and unloading. Loading and unloading, opening, closing or other handling of boxes, crates, containers, equipment, building materials, garbage cans, or similar objects between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekdays and 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekends or holidays in or within 50 yards of residential area or noise sensitive zone.
- (5) Construction and demolition. Operating or causing the operation of any tools used in construction, drilling, repair, alteration, or demolition work between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and

6:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekends or holidays in or within 50 yards of any residential area or noise sensitive zone, except for emergency work by public service utilities or by special permit issued by the chief of police. This section shall not apply to the use of domestic power tools as specified in subsection (11) of this section.

- (6) Powered model vehicles. Operating or permitting the operation of powered model vehicles:
  - a. Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekdays and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on weekends or holidays in or within 100 feet of any residential areas or noise sensitive zone; or
  - b. In such a manner as to exceed the levels set for public space land use, measured at a distance of not closer than 100 feet (30 meters) from any point on the path of a vehicle operating on a public space or public right-of-way.
- (7) Emergency signaling devices. The intentional sounding or permitting the sounding outdoors of any fire, burglary, or civil defense alarm, fire, whistle, or similar stationary emergency signaling device, except for emergency shall not occur before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m., and any testing shall use the minimum cycle test time appropriate for such devices, in no case to exceed 60 seconds. Testing of the complete emergency signaling system, including the functioning of the signaling device and the personnel response to the signaling device shall not occur more than once in each calendar month. Such testing shall occur only on weekdays and not before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., and shall be exempt from the time limit specified in this subsection. The sounding or permitting the sounding of any exterior burglar or fire alarm or any motor vehicle burglar alarm, unless such alarm is automatically terminated within 15 minutes of activation, shall be prohibited.
- (8) Motor boats. Operating or permitting the operation of any motor boat in any lake, river, stream, canal, bay, or other waterway in such a manner as to cause unnecessary and excessive noise within a residential area or noise sensitive zone, or to exceed 86 dB(A) when measured at least 50 feet from the craft.
- (9) Noise sensitive zones. Creating or causing the creation of any sound within any noise sensitive zone so as to exceed the decibels levels set forth for such zone when measured at a distance of at least 25 feet (7.5 meters) from the sound source, provided that conspicuous signs are displayed indicating the presence of the noise sensitive zone or the creating or causing the creation of any excessive and unnecessary noise within or adjacent to any noise sensitive zone containing a hospital, nursing home, school, court or other designated area, provided that conspicuous signs are displayed indicating the presence of the noise sensitive zone.
- (10) Domestic power tools. Operating or permitting the operation of any mechanically powered saw, drill, grinder, lawn or garden tool, or similar tool between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekdays, or 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays, unless such equipment is operated inside a building or other structure so that the sound therefrom does not travel across any residential real property line or sensitive zone and exceed the levels set forth in Table 1 of section 17-10. All such equipment shall be properly muffled and maintained in working order so as not to create excessive unnecessary noise.
- (11) Multifamily dwellings. Operating or permitting the operation within a multifamily dwelling of any source of sound in a manner so as to exceed 55 dB(A) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. or 45 dB(A) from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays, when measured with an adjacent intrabuilding dwelling. These noise limits shall not be exceeded more than ten percent of any measurement, which shall not be less than five minutes. The maximum permissible sound level, when measured in an adjacent intrabuilding area between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays shall be 50 dB(A).
- (12) Places of public entertainment. Operating or permitting to be operated any loudspeaker or other source of sound in any place of public entertainment that exceeds the level shown in Table 3, at

any point normally occupied by a customer, without a conspicuous and legible sign stating, "WARNING" SOUND LEVELS WITHIN MAY CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT.

Table 3
Permissible Noise Exposures

Duration per day Continuous Hours	Noise Level dB(A)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1½	102
1	105
1/2	110
¼ or less	115

- (13) Refuse collection vehicles. No person shall collect refuse with a refuse collection vehicle between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekdays and 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. on weekends and holidays within a residential area or noise sensitive zone.
- (14) Recreational motorized vehicles operating off public right-of-way. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any recreational motorized vehicle or motorcycle that exceeds the limits set forth in Table 1 of section 17-10 off the public right-of-way in any residential or noise sensitive zone. This section shall apply to all motorized vehicles or motorcycles whether or not duly licensed and registered.
- (15) Morning to evening. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the creation of any unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in the city between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. within 100 yards of a dwelling unit, house, trailer or other building ordinarily occupied by another person, when such person who owns or is in control of such building has not given prior consent, or within 25 yards of a publicly maintained road or public vehicular area, is prohibited.

- (16) Nighttime. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the creation of any unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in the city between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following morning within 100 yards of a dwelling unit, house, trailer or other building ordinarily occupied by another person, when such person who owns or is in control of such building has not given prior consent, or within 25 yards of a publicly maintained highway or public vehicular area, is prohibited.
- (17) Detrimental noise. Noise of such character, intensity and duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual is prohibited within the city, no matter what the distance of the source of such noise is to any dwelling unit, house, trailer or building occupied by such other person, unless the person in control of such unit, house, trailer or building has given specific consent for such noise to continue.
- (18) Prohibited acts generally. The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in violation of this chapter, but such enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive:
  - a. Blowing horns. The sounding of any horn or signal on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle, except as a danger signal, so as to create any unreasonably loud or harsh sound or the sound of such device for an unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.
  - b. Radios, phonographs, stereo systems, music storage devices etc. The playing of any radio, phonograph, stereo systems, music storage devices or other musical instrument in such manner or with such volume, as to unreasonably annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person in any dwelling unit, house, trailer, building or other type of residence.
  - c. Pets. The keeping of any animal or bird, which by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall unreasonably disturb the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity.
  - d. Use of vehicle. The use of any automobile, motorcycle or vehicle so loaded, or operated in such manner as to create an unreasonably loud or unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling or other noise.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.4; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-12. - Motor vehicle noise.

(a) No person shall drive or move or cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles at any time in such a manner as to exceed the following noise limits for the category or motor vehicle shown below. Noise shall be measured at a distance of at least 25 feet (7.5 meters) from the near side of the hearest lane being monitored and at a height of at least four feet above the immediate surrounding surface.

## SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL, dB(A)

	Speed limit 35 mph or less	Speed limit over 35 mph
Motor vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVW) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,000 pounds or more, or any combination of vehicles towed by such motor vehicle, except those operated by an interstate motor		

<mark>carrier.</mark>		
Such vehicles operated by interstate motor carriers (measured at least 35 feet from the centerline of the traveled lane).	91	95
Any other motor vehicle or any combination of vehicles towed by any motor vehicle.	<mark>76</mark>	80

- (b) This section shall apply to the total noise from a vehicle or combination of vehicles and shall not be construed as limiting or precluding the enforcement of any other provisions of sections 17-7 through 17-13 relating to motor vehicle mufflers for noise control.
- (c) No person shall operate or cause to be operated any motor vehicle unless the exhaust system of such vehicle is:
  - (1) Free from defects which affect sound reduction;
  - (2) Equipped with a muffler or other noise dissipative device; and
  - (3) Not equipped with any cut-out, bypass or similar device.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.7; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-14. - Special permits—Relief from allowable noise level limits.

Applications for a permit for relief from the maximum allowable noise level limits designated in sections 17-7 through 17-13 may be made in writing to the chief of police or his duly authorized representative. Any permit granted by the chief of police under this chapter must be in writing and shall contain all conditions upon which the permit shall be effective. The chief of police or his duly authorized representative may grant the relief as applied for under the following conditions:

- (1) General conditions and requirements. The chief of police may prescribe any reasonable conditions or requirements he deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the community or the surrounding neighborhood, including use of mufflers, screens or other sound attenuating devices.
- (2) Permits for entertainment. Permits may be granted for the purpose of entertainment under the following conditions:
  - a. The function must be open to the public; admission may be charged.
  - b. The function must take place on public property or public vehicular areas of shopping centers in an area zoned CIP as prescribed in Chapter 30 of this Code, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.
  - c. The function must be staged between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- (3) Other conditions. Special permits for nonentertainment special purposes may be issued under the following conditions:
  - If the special purpose relates to the operation of a trade or business, that the special purpose not be in the ordinary course of that trade or business; or
    - 2. If the special purpose does not relate to the operation of a trade or business, that the special purpose not be an ordinary event in the affairs of the applicant; and

- b. If the special purpose be a recurring purpose, that it not recur more often than four times each calendar year; and
- c. 1. That the special purpose be absolutely necessary to the operation of the applicant's trade or business; or
  - 2. If the special purpose does not relate to the operation of the trade or business, that the special purpose be compatible with the ordinary activities of the neighborhood in which the special purpose is to occur; and
- d. Except in emergency situations, as determined by the chief of police, the special permit may be issued only between 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on weekdays; and
- e. The special permit may be issued for no longer than 15 consecutive days, renewable by further application to the chief of police.
- (4) Exterior loudspeaker not permitted. No permit may be issued to permit the use of any loudspeaker or sound amplifying device on the exterior of any building which at any time exceeds the sound level limits in Table 1 of section 17-10 except those used for emergency warnings.
- (5) Appeal. Anyone aggrieved by the provisions of this section shall have the right to appeal the decision of the chief of police to an administrative hearing officer in writing within ten days after receipt of the decision of the chief pursuant to section 1-9 of the City of Fayetteville Code of Ordinances. If the decision of the police chief is not appealed, the decision shall be deemed final.
- (6) At the hearing before the administrative hearing officer pursuant to an appeal as requested pursuant to subsection (5) of this section, the hearing officer shall determine whether issuance of the permit would be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community. If the hearing officer determines that the issuance of the permit would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, the hearing officer shall specifically authorize the chief of police to issue the permit to the applicant. If the hearing officer determines that the issuance of the permit would be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare of the community, the hearing officer shall so notify the applicant, and the chief of police shall not issue the permit.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.6; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-16. - Noise from radios, tape players, loudspeakers, sound amplifiers.

- (a) No person shall play, use, or operate, or permit to be played, used, or operated, any radio, tape recorder, cassette player, music storage device, or other machine or device for reproducing sound, if it is located in or on any of the following:
  - (1) Any public property, including any public street, highway, building, sidewalk, park, thoroughfare, or public or private parking lot unless such person receives a special event or public assembly permit; or
  - (2) Any motor vehicle on a public street, highway, public space or within the motor vehicular area of any public or private parking lot or park;
  - and if at the same time the sound generated is audible at a distance of 30 feet from the radio, tape recorder, cassette player, music storage device, or other machine or device that is producing the sound.
- (b) Possession by a person of any radio, tape recorder, cassette player, music storage device, or other machine or device for reproducing sound as enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be prima facie evidence that such person operates, or those persons operate, the radio, tape recorder, cassette player, music storage device, or other machine or device for reproducing sound.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.10; Ord. No. S2008-013, § 1, 8-11-2008; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-17. - Enforcement responsibility for control of excessive noise.

- (a) Primary enforcement responsibility. The chief of police of the city shall have primary enforcement responsibility for sections 17-7 through 17-16 as they relate to stationary sources and as they relate to motor vehicle sources.
- (b) Powers of arrest or citation. Any police officer shall issue a citation for any violation under this article, except they may arrest for instances when:
  - (1) The alleged violator refuses to provide the officer with such person's name and address and any proof thereof as may be reasonably available to the alleged violator; or
  - (2) The alleged violator refuses to cease such illegal activity after being issued a citation.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.9; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-18. - Penalties for violation of sections 17-7 through 17-16.

- (a) Any person violating any provision of sections 17-7 through 17-16 shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount in accordance with the fee schedule as adopted by city council for each offense, and separate offenses shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues. Any subsequent violation within a 12-month period of a first violation after the enactment of this section shall subject the violator to a civil penalty in accordance with the fee schedule as adopted by city council for each subsequent violation. For purposes of determining subsequent violations within a 12-month period, the date of the first violation from and after the enactment of this section shall be the anniversary date from which a new 12-month period shall begin.
- (b) The provisions of sections 17-7 through 17-16 and any violation may be enforced by one or all or a combination of the remedies authorized and prescribed by section 1-7 of the City of Fayetteville Code of Ordinances.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.11; Ord. No. S2009-002, § 1(a)—(c), 3-9-2009; Ord. No. S2013-025, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 17-18. - Penalties for violation of sections 17-7 through 17-16.

- (a) Any person violating any provision of sections 17-7 through 17-16 shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount in accordance with the fee schedule as adopted by city council for each offense, and separate offenses shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues. Any subsequent violation within a 12-month period of a first violation after the enactment of this section shall subject the violator to a civil penalty in accordance with the fee schedule as adopted by city council for each subsequent violation. For purposes of determining subsequent violations within a 12-month period, the date of the first violation from and after the enactment of this section shall be the anniversary date from which a new 12-month period shall begin.
- (b) Any person found to be in violation of any provision of sections 17-7 through 17-16 shall be issued a citation which shall, among other things: (i) state upon its face the amount of the civil penalty and that it shall be paid within 72 hours from and after such violations; (ii) notify such offender that failure to pay the penalty within the prescribed time shall subject the offender to a civil action in the nature of a debt for the stated penalty plus the cost of the action to be taxed in the court; and (iii) further provide that the penalty may be paid at the cashier's window on the first floor of City Hall, 433 Hay Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301.

(c) If the penalty prescribed in subsection (a) of this section is not paid within 72 hours, the city may initiate a civil action in the nature of a debt and recover the civil penalty and the cost of the action.

(Code 1961, § 21-30.11; Ord. No. S2009-002, § 1(a)—(c), 3-9-2009)