

Denise Ferguson - Noise ordinance

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To: <commissioner@charlescounty.org>
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Subject: Noise ordinance

I saw in Friday's Independent that the county is requesting input on updating the county's noise ordinance. I would like to add my thoughts and frustrations with neighbors over the years.

My first experience with the noise ordinance was back in the lat 90's when we lived in the Carrington neighborhood. A family moved into a rental home near us. They had an unruly and completely disrespectful teenage son. At all hours of the night he would play his music with the bass turned all the way up. I can not tell you how frustrating it is to be waken night after night after midnight to the thumping of music. We had the cops there so often they would stop by our house first and basically say there was nothing they could do. It was infuriating and we soon moved.

We now live just 234 but have a neighbor who is just as inconsiderate. He is now having work done on his house. The work is only done on the weekends and he believes it is quite acceptable to start at 6:30 in the morning. I've spoken to him about it. But he doesn't care. If I lived next to a farm, I would understand their need to be up and at work early. This neighbor is just inconsiderate and lacking in common sense.

I have pulled the county noise ordinance for the next time he wakes me up at 6:30 in the morning. The county's ordinance is weak willed and weak on enforcement. I don't need someone with a noise meter to come out to my property to tell me that someone banging on a piece of metal at 6:30 in the morning is disturbing the peace. An office of the law would readily understand this.

Construction work on private property should not be allowed to begin before 7:30 on weekdays and 8::00am on weekends. The first time fine of \$500 should be mandatory and not "up to". There should be no wiggle room. The fines for second and subsequent offenses should be mandatory and include liens on the property should the fine not be paid.

It is entirely unfortunate that rules like this must exist. I do not begrudge my neighbor the right to improve his house or property. However, if he can't do so in a manner consistent with common courtesy, I must have form of recourse against him. The current law is not strong enough.

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