

Board of County Commissioners

Chapter 15, Article V Noise Control Ordinance of Orange County Proposed Amendments

**BCC Public Hearing
August 5, 2025**

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Presentation Outline

- Purpose & Background
- Proposed Amendments
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Summary
- Action Requested



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Purpose

▪ Ordinance Overview

- Chapter 15, Article V (Noise Pollution Control Ordinance), originally adopted in 1986 and updated in 1995, 2008, and 2014

▪ Current Enforcement & Reporting

- EPD: commercial/industrial noise
- OCSO: residential/commercial noise
- Complaints via 311, OCSO non-emergency, and commissioner offices



▪ Resident & Commissioner Concerns

- Growing volume of unresolved noise complaints

▪ Board Direction to Proceed

- On Sept. 9, 2024, BCC directed EPD to develop updated ordinance language

▪ Comprehensive Review Conducted

- Noise Ordinance evaluated to address public input and clarify outdated provisions

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Background

Noise Pollution Impacts on Public Health

▪ Physical

- Hearing loss
- Cardiovascular problems
- Sleep disturbance

▪ Mental

- Increased stress and anxiety
- Cognitive impairment
- Depression and anxiety

▪ Community

- Reduced quality of life
- Disruption to social cohesion
- Disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations



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Background

BCC Noise Concerns

▪ Boats

- F.S. 20.331(7)(e) (Florida Wildlife Commission is empowered to enforce all laws related to boating)
- F.S. 327.60 and 327.65 (limits local governments to regulation of noise from boat engines or exhaust)

▪ Food truck events & vehicles

- F.S. 316.3045 (25' plainly audible motor vehicle)
- OCSO monthly detail

▪ Speedways

- F.S. 316.293 (state roadway exemption for motor vehicles in competitive events; County's has a similar exemption)

▪ Fireworks

- Ordinance No. 2025-20 created a Fireworks Ordinance, effective June 20, 2025. (codified in Article VI of Chapter 28 of the Orange County Code)

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-179. Purpose; intent; authority and responsibility of environmental protection officer and investigating officer

(c) Nothing in this article is intended to deter individuals from lawfully exercising the individual right of freedom of speech, or any other rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States of America or the Constitution of the State of Florida, or to unreasonably limit or restrain commercial or industrial enterprises.

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-180. Terminology, standards and definitions

■ Added Definitions

- Amusement attraction or ride
- Commercial area
- Distance measuring device
- Industrial area
- Mixed-use area
- Noise Complaint
- Noise compliance & compatibility study
- Non-residential area
- Receiving property
- Regional centers
- Special event
- Theme park and theme park attraction
- Unamplified human voice
- Vehicle

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-180. Terminology, standards and definitions

■ Updated Definitions

- Emergency work or emergency service
- Noise or noise disturbance
- Plainly audible
- Residential area

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-182. Maximum permissible sound levels; land use categories; times; and measurement descriptors



TABLE 1
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SOUND LEVEL LIMITS
(measured with sound level meter)

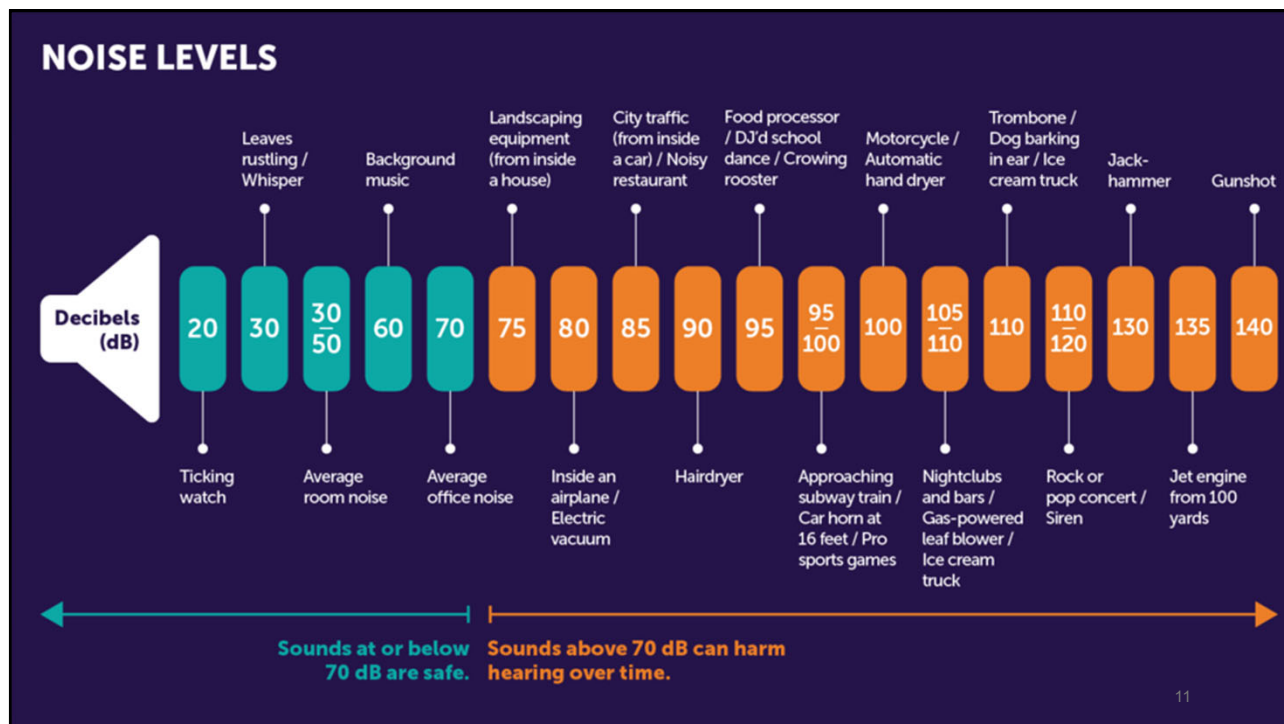
Land Use Category	Measurement	Time of Day	Sound Level Limit (dBA)
Noise Sensitive Zone	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	Any time	55 dB -dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	60 dB -dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Residential Area and Receiving Properties	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	60 dB -dBA
	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	55 dB -dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	65 dB -dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Commercial and Mixed-use Area ¹	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	65 dBA
	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	60 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	70 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Industrial Area ¹	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	70 dBA
	Time Averaged (L _{eq})	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	65 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	75 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Regional Centers (including Theme Parks and Amusement Attractions and Rides)	See Table 1.1 below		

¹ Measurement of the sounds that arise from properties within the commercial, mixed-use, and industrial areas shall be measured from a distance not closer than 50 feet from the property line of the source of the sound.



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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-182. Maximum permissible sound levels; land use categories; times; and measurement descriptors

- Specific to I-Drive District and UCF Regional Centers
- Times structured for expected elevated noise levels on weekends

Land Use Category	Time	Day / Sound Level Limit						
		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regional Centers ¹ (including Theme Parks and Amusement Attractions and Rides)	12:01 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.	70 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	70 dBA
	2:01 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	65 dBA
	7:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA	70 dBA

¹ Noise disturbance complaints in a Regional Center that might involve the consumption of alcohol, any suspected illegal activities, or “breach of the peace”, defined by Section 877.03, Florida Statutes, are subject to investigation and enforcement by an investigating officer, pursuant to Section 15-179(e).

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-183. Measurement or assessment of noise



**ORANGE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
SHERIFF JOHN W. MINA

- Reduction in distance for plainly audible standard
- Not applicable to theme parks, amusement attractions and rides in Regional Centers

TABLE 2
PLAINLY AUDIBLE STANDARD SOUND LIMITS

<i>Underlying Land Use Category (from which noise emanates)</i>	<i>Time of Day</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Residential Area <u>(excluding Regional Centers)</u>	<u>All days</u> 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	500-100 feet or more
	<u>All days</u> 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	150-50 feet or more
Nonresidential Area <u>(excluding Regional Centers)</u>	<u>All days</u> 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	500-200 feet or more
	<u>All days</u> 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	300-100 feet or more
<u>Regional Centers</u> <u>(excluding theme parks, amusement attractions, and rides)</u>	<u>See Table 2.1 below</u>	

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Noise Ordinance Study

Plainly Audible Comparison

County/ Municipality	Source/Land Use	Plainly Audible Standard Distance	
Orange County	Residential Non-Residential	7:00 am to 10:00 pm at 500 ft. 10:01 pm to 6:59 am at 150 ft. 7:00 am to 10:00 pm at 500 ft. 10:01 pm to 6:59 am at 300 ft.	Other municipalities within OC did not have a plainly audible standard or the distance is already more stringent.
Seminole County	Multi-Use	11:00 pm to 7:00 am at 50 ft.	
Hillsborough County	Multi-Use	All times at 150 ft.	
Orlando	Residential Multi-Use	10:00 pm to 7:00 am at 15 ft. 10:00 pm to 7:00 am at 50 ft.	
Winter Park	Multi use outside Multi use inside	10:00 pm and 8:00 am at a distance of 50 feet 11:00 pm and 8:00 am at a distance of 50 feet	
Jacksonville	Multi-Use	25 ft outside of vehicle	
Gainesville	Inside vehicle Outside of vehicle	plainly audible at 25 ft at a distance of 200 feet or more from the real property line	
EPA Model	Radios, TVs, Instruments Loud Speaker	8:00 am to 8:00 pm at 100 ft, 8:00 pm to 8:00 am at 50 ft. 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at 100 ft, 8:00 pm to 8:00 am across real property boundary.	
	Non-Emergency Signaling Devices	All times at 100 ft	

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-183. Measurement or assessment of noise



- Applicable to residential and commercial businesses serving alcohol/suspected illegal activity within I-Drive District and UCF
- Times structured for expected elevated noise levels on weekends
- Distances adjusted for expected mixed use in regional centers

TABLE 2.1
REGIONAL CENTERS PLAINLY AUDIBLE STANDARD SOUND LIMITS

<u>Underlying Land Use Category (from which noise emanates)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Day / Distance</u>						
		<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<u>Regional Centers (excluding theme parks, amusement attractions, and rides)</u>	<u>12:01 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.</u>	<u>500 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>500 feet or more</u>
	<u>2:01 a.m. – 6:59 a.m.</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>
	<u>7:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>300 feet or more</u>	<u>500 feet or more</u>	<u>500 feet or more</u>

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-183. Measurement or assessment of noise

(2) ~~Noise disturbances~~ **Sounds** in violation of subsection 15-494 183(b)(1) shall be confirmed by the investigating officer. The investigating officer who hears a ~~noise disturbance~~ **sound** that may might be plainly audible shall assess the ~~noise disturbance~~ **sound** by measuring the distance from the property line or right-of-way line of the source of the ~~noise disturbance~~ **sound** according to the following standards: sound to a distance that exceeds the distance requirement of the plainly audible standard sound limits in subsection 15-183(b)(1). **The investigating officer shall measure such distance, according to the following standards, to determine whether the sound constitutes a noise disturbance:**

...



b. The investigating officer shall have a direct line of sight and hearing to the real property that is the source of the ~~noise disturbance~~ **sound** so that the investigating officer can identify the offending source of such ~~noise disturbance~~ **sound** and the distance involved.

c. **The investigating officer shall use a distance measuring device to measure the distances defined in subsection 15-183(b)(1).**

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-185. Exemptions

Updated/Added exemptions

- Lawn maintenance and construction activity noise exemption; 7:00 a.m. until ~~10:00~~ 9:00 p.m.
- **Generator testing**
- Refuse collection reference to Section 32-178 of Orange Code
- Concrete pour notices
- Fireworks
- Special events

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-186. Variances

(c) Any person seeking a variance shall submit an application to the environmental protection officer. At a minimum the applicant shall provide the following information:

...

(8) Noise compliance and compatibility study.

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-187. Enforcement/penalty.

- Enforcement only initiated ...upon receipt of a noise complaint, and may result in a cease and desist warning, warning letter, notice of violation, civil citation, or criminal citation
- If no valid permit or County approval or variance is in place; shall result in a cease and desist warning, warning letter, notice of violation, civil citation, or criminal citation
 - Cease and desist warnings issued by OCSO require corrective action within a reasonable time which is defined to be ~~fifteen (15)~~ five minutes

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Proposed Amendments

Section 15-189. ~~Reserved~~. Severability and Conflicts.

- The rights and violations provided herein should be interpreted, to the greatest extent possible, in harmony with any superior state or federal law governing the same rights and conduct. To the extent any provision of this article or the application thereof to any person or circumstance impermissibly conflicts with any superior state or federal law governing the same conduct or matter, such provision shall be severable and all other provisions shall remain fully enforceable. Further, if any provision of this article or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this article that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this end the provisions of this article are declared severable.

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Stakeholder Engagement

Orange County Internal Engagement



- Commissioner briefings
- OCAO & OCSO Legal Reviews
- OCSO NARC Meetings
- AAB Meeting – 08/07/2024
- BCC Work Session – 09/10/2024
- EPC Work Sessions – 03/27/2024, 05/29/2024, 09/25/2024
- DAB Work Session – 11/18/2024
- PZC/LPA Work Session – 11/21/2024
- EPC Public Hearing – 12/04/2024
(*recommendation for approval received*)

Public Engagement & Outreach

- Noise Webpage
- Digital Newsletters
 - Demings' Digest
 - Parks Community Newsletter
 - eVIP Volunteer Newsletter
- Building Safety Info Session
- Neighborhood Services Community Conference
- Social media posts
- Universal Epic Stakeholder coordination

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NOISE Pollution Control Ordinance

Chapter 15 Article V

NOISE DISTURBANCE RESOURCES


- Make a Complaint
- Breach of Peace FL Statute
- Contact your Municipality
- Noise Pollution Control Ordinance

GET INVOLVED: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES


- Get Involved
- Policy Studies
- Noise Measurement Standards Explained

How can we assist you?

Report a Noise Issue



2024 Noise Code Updates - Get Involved




2024 Noise Code Updates – Get Involved

Recently, several residents expressed concerns regarding the implementation and effectiveness of Orange County's Noise Pollution Control Ordinance, including existing noise standards and enforcement response. We need your input to help propose noise policy changes to the Board of County Commissioners in late 2024.


We Want To Hear From You!

[Share an Idea](#)
[Attend a Meeting](#)



www.orangecountyfl.net/Environment/Noise.aspx

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Summary

- Noise Ordinance Study findings indicate that changes are warranted
 - Complaints relating to excessive noise are increasing
 - Current ordinance has standards that may not always allow for adequate resolution of the issues
- Noise complaints are regulated by two agencies with different processes for resolution or enforcement
- Amendments intended to improve ordinance effectiveness and improve public health
- Business impact estimate posted on July 21, 2025; direct economic impact of the proposed amendments to the Noise Control Ordinance are not expected.

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Revision to the definition of *Regional Center*

(32) *Regional Center* shall mean ~~either~~ the International Drive (I-Drive) District ~~Regional Center or the University of Central Florida (UCF) Regional Center~~ areas, as defined by the Orange County Comprehensive Plan, and any other area defined as a Regional Center by the Orange County Comprehensive Plan, as the Orange County Comprehensive Plan is amended from time to time.

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Revisions to tables for legal clarity

TABLE 1
MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SOUND LEVEL LIMITS
(measured with sound level meter)

Land Use Category	Measurement	Time of Day	Sound Level Limit (dBA)
Noise Sensitive Zone	Time Averaged (Leq)	Any time	55 dB-dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	60 dB-dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Residential Area and Receiving Properties	Time Averaged (Leq)	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	60 dB-dBA
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	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
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Commercial and Mixed-use Area ¹	Time Averaged (Leq)	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	65 dBA
	Time Averaged (Leq)	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	60 dBA
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	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Industrial Area ¹	Time Averaged (Leq)	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	70 dBA
	Time Averaged (Leq)	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	65 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	75 dBA
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
	Impulsive	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	Not allowed
Regional Centers ¹ (excluding Theme Parks and Amusement Attractions and Rides)	See Table 1.1 below		

¹ Measurement of the sounds that arise from properties within the commercial, mixed-use, and industrial areas, shall be measured from a distance not closer than 50 feet from the property line of the source of the sound.

TABLE 1.1
REGIONAL CENTER¹ MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SOUND LEVEL LIMITS
(measured with sound level meter)

Land Use Category	Time	Day / Sound Level Limit						
		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regional Centers ¹ (excluding Theme Parks and Amusement Attractions and Rides)	12:01 a.m.—2:00 a.m.	70 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	70 dBA
	2:01 a.m.—6:59 a.m.	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	65 dBA
	7:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m.	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	65 dBA	70 dBA	70 dBA
	12:01 a.m.—2:00 a.m.	70 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	60 dBA	70 dBA

¹ Noise disturbance complaints in a Regional Center (excluding theme parks and amusement attractions and rides) that might involve the consumption of alcohol, any suspected illegal activities, or "breach of the peace", defined by Section 877.03, Florida Statutes, are subject to investigation and enforcement by an investigating officer, pursuant to Section 15-179(e).

TABLE 2
PLAINLY AUDIBLE STANDARD SOUND LIMITS

Underlying Land Use Category (from which noise emanates)	Time of Day	Distance
Residential Area (excluding Regional Centers)	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	500-100 feet or more
	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	450-50 feet or more
Nonresidential Area (excluding Regional Centers)	All days 7:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m.	500-200 feet or more
	All days 10:01 p.m.—6:59 a.m.	300-100 feet or more
Regional Centers ¹ (excluding theme parks, amusement attractions, and rides)	See Table 2.1 below	

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Action Requested

- Approval and Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 15, Article V, of the Orange County Code of Ordinances, known as the “Noise Control Ordinance of Orange County, Florida”; Amending Provisions Pertaining to Definitions, Sound Level Limits, Standards for Measuring Sound, Exemptions, Variances, and Methods of Enforcement; and Providing an Effective Date. All Districts.

and

- Authorization for staff to correct any non-substantial grammatical or scrivener’s errors within the Ordinance.

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