

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015

7:45 PM  
ROOM 211

Chairman's Note: There will be no public comment taken on the leaf blower items at this meeting

**ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

*Programs & Services and Public Facilities Committees will meet jointly on the following item:*

**REFERRED TO PUB FACIL, PROG & SERV, AND PS&T COMMITTEES**

#46-15 ALD. JOHNSON & CICCONE, requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Department of Public Works and the School Department to determine and discuss parking options including use of school properties based on the current municipal parking lot programs including the issuance of permits. [02/11/15 @ 1:35 PM]

#483-14 PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE proposing a RESOLUTION to promote a cooperative program with food establishments in the City, the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Commission, the Director of Economic Development and members of the Board of Aldermen, to find opportunities for these establishments to provide their food services for events in the City. [12/02/14 @ 3:56PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERVICES AND ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEES**

#127-15 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion with Health Department, Inspectional Services Department and the Economic Development Commission regarding the policy of food truck operations in the City of Newton. [05/11/15 @ 10:22AM]

#31-15 PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE proposing an ordinance to limit the use of leafblowers. [01/26/15 @ 2:20PM]

#31-15(2) THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting to amend *Chapter 20-13, Noise Control*, relative to time restrictions on the use of yard, garden or grounds maintenance equipment. [03/19/15 @ 12:14PM]

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The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you need a special accommodation, *please contact Jini Fairley, at least two days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov), or 617-796-1253. For Telecommunications Relay Service dial 711.*

Items Recommended for No Action Necessary:

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #254-12(3) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE proposing an ordinance to require a fee, charged to consumers, for the use of paper bags at certain retail establishments in the City of Newton. [01/10/14 @ 3:36 pm]
- #199-13 ALD. JOHNSON AND SANGIOLO requesting an update from the School Committee and School Department regarding the request from the Board of Aldermen to reduce the family cap on activity fees. [05/20/13 @ 11:05 PM]
- #59-14 ALD. HESS-MAHAN AND BLAZAR requesting discussion with the Executive Department and the Health Care Advisory Committee concerning plans to implement recommendations contained in the First Report of the Health Care Advisory Committee to control the cost of health insurance while improving or maintaining the quality of care. [02/18/14 @ 6:39 PM]
- #229-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending a review and possible amendment to the *Board of Aldermen Rules & Orders 2012-2013* relative to review of draft ordinances by the Law Department.

**ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #288-15 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2017-FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/01/15 @ 1:53 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

- 201-15 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion with the Commissioner of Public Buildings, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, and the Executive Department regarding the condition of the property located at 246 Dudley Road (Kennard Estate) and how much, if any, repairs and upgrades will be needed as the City relocates the Parks and Recreation Department to that location. [09/01/15 @ 4:00 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

- #141-15 ALD. BROUSAL-GLASER, SANGIOLO, HESS-MAHAN, COTE, NORTON AND ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion with *the Director of Urban Forestry*, a representative of the Department of Public Works and a representative of the Law Department about tracking and improving the condition of the gas utility infrastructure in Newton, new state statutes governing infrastructure repairs,

coordination of increased repair work with city operations, the status of negotiations with National Grid to compensate for tree deaths resulting from gas leaks, and the possibility of creating a utilities working group to monitor progress on these and related issues. [05/26/15 @ 2:52 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

- #140-15 PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES requesting that the School Department and/or the Executive Department provide updates on the progress of the potential purchase of the Aquinas site as well as short and long term plans for uses and operations at the site. [05/20/15 @ 8:53 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #216-14 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, ALBRIGHT, BAKER, CROSSLEY, NORTON AND SANGIOLO proposing the following amendments to Chapter 12 Health and Human Services of the Revised Ordinances to:
- require owners of dwellings requiring a Certificate of Habitability under Section 12-1 and real estate agents/brokers who receive compensation in connection with the particular real estate transaction to notify the Commissioner of Health and Human Services whenever an apartment, tenement, or room in a lodging house is vacated by the occupant or when an area in an existing building is converted to a condominium prior to being reoccupied by a new tenant, lodger or occupant;
  - require educational institutions to disclose addresses of undergraduates living off-campus in Newton;
  - require a fee for certification; and
  - impose a fine for violation of these provisions. [05/14/14 @ 11:51 AM]

- #377-14 THE PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a discussion with the Director of Senior Services, the Council on Aging and the Executive Department relative to changes in the use of the Senior Center at 345 Walnut Street. [10/16/14 @ 5:43PM]

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES**

- #119-14 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND CROSSLEY requesting discussion with the Inspectional Services Department to explain the development of short and long term plans to identify and correct buildings, sidewalks, playgrounds, etc., that do not conform to American Disability Act (ADA) standards. The discussion should include information on how improvements will be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan or if less than \$75,000 into a comprehensive budget plan to correct ADA deficiencies. [03/12/14 @ 4:18 PM]

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE**

- #402-13 ALD. FULLER, GENTILE, RICE and LINSKY requesting a Home Rule Petition to amend Article 9 of the Charter to clarify that Neighborhood Area Councils shall maintain and control their own financial accounts and records, independent

of City finances; and to further clarify that such independent financial accounts and records shall remain subject to City audit. [10/28/13 @ 10:18 AM]

#398-13 ALD. BAKER & DANBERG requesting a discussion of a possible ordinance, regulations or otherwise, to complement zoning regulation of any licensed Registered Marijuana Dispensaries to respond to any secondary impacts so as to make the operation of such dispensaries as successful as possible. [10/28/13 @ 10:00 AM]

#34-13 ALD. DANBERG, ALBRIGHT, BLAZAR, RICE, LINSKY AND CROSSLEY requesting a prohibition on polystyrene-based disposable food or beverage containers in the City of Newton if that packaging takes place on the premises of food establishments within the City. [01/03/13 @ 11:01 AM]

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#257-12 RECODIFICATION COMMITTEE recommending (1) review of the Fees, Civil Fines/Non-Criminal Disposition contained in Chapter 17 LICENSING AND PERMITS GENERALLY and Chapter 20 CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION CIVIL FINES to ensure they are in accordance with what is being charged and (2) review of the acceptance of G.L. c. 40 §22F, accepted on July 9, 2001, which allows certain municipal boards and officers to fix reasonable fees for the issuance of certain licenses, permits, or certificates.

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB. FACIL. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#312-10 ALD. LENNON, LAPPIN, SCHNIPPER, SANGIOLO requesting a discussion with the School Committee on its plans to address space needs in the Newton public schools. [10/27/10 @ 11:07 AM]

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Mah Sangiolo

## #31-15 (LEAF BLOWERS)

## DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES (10/8/2015)

(No transition - no total ban version)

(Added language underscored; deleted language struck through)

**ARTICLE II.****NOISE****Sec. 20-13. Noise control.**

(a) This ordinance may be cited as the "Noise Control Ordinance of the City of Newton."

(b) *Declaration of findings and policy.* Whereas excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and the quality of life; and whereas a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated; and, whereas the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound that may jeopardize their health or welfare or safety or degrade the quality of life; now therefor it is the policy of the City of Newton to prevent excessive sound which may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

(c) *Scope.* This ordinance shall apply to the control of all sound originating within the limits of the City of Newton except as follows:

- (1) the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work or in training exercises related to emergency activities; and
- (2) all snow clearance activities; and
- (3) any program or activity supervised by the parks and recreation department of the city in effect and as it exists on June 1, 1983.

(d) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

*Construction and demolition:* Any excavation, highway construction, land development or land clearing work, or the erection, demolition, alteration, repair, or relocation of any building or structure, which uses powered equipment such as backhoes, trucks, tractors, excavators, earth moving equipment, compressors, motorized, or power hand tools, manual tools, or equipment of a similar nature as well as two-way radios or other communication equipment; or use of any equipment for recycling, screening, separating, or any other processing of soil, rocks, concrete, asphalt or other raw material.

*Electronic devices:* any radio, tape recorder or player, television, phonograph, public address system, loudspeaker, amplified musical instrument or any other similar device, except two-way communication radios.

*Emergency:* any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical trauma or property damage which demands immediate action.

*Emergency work:* any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency.

*Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR):* the value specified by the manufacturer as the recommended maximum loaded weight of a single motor vehicle. In cases where trailers and tractors are separable, the gross combination weight rating (GCWR), which is the value specified by the manufacturer as the recommended maximum loaded weight of the combination vehicle, shall be used.

## #31-15 DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES (4/28/2015)

§ 20-13 NEWTON ORDINANCES — CIVIL FINES AND MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES § 20-13

*Leaf blower:* any portable motorized device, whether carried or pushed, whether powered by gasoline or other fuel, electricity or battery, used in any landscape or property construction or maintenance activity, for the purpose of blowing, dispersing, vacuuming, redistributing, or removing dust, dirt, leaves, grass or plant clippings, litter or other debris.

*Motorcycle:* any unenclosed motor vehicle having two or three wheels in contact with the ground, including, but not limited to, motor scooters, minibikes, and mopeds.

*Motor vehicles:* any vehicle which is propelled or drawn on land by a motor, such as, but not limited to, passenger cars, trucks, truck-trailers, semi-trailers, campers, go-carts, snowmobiles, dune buggies, or racing vehicles, but not including motorcycles.

*Noise pollution:* a condition caused by a noise source that increases noise levels 10dB(A) or more above background noise level, except that if the noise source produces a tonal sound, an increase at 5dB(A) or more above background noise level is sufficient to cause noise pollution.

*Tonal sound:* any sound that is judged by a listener to have the characteristics of a pure tone, whine, hum or buzz.

(e) *Noise Pollution prohibited.*

- (1) No person shall willfully, negligently, or through failure to provide necessary equipment or facilities or to take necessary precautions permit the establishment or continuation of a condition of noise pollution caused by a noise source (other than a dog or bird) owned, leased, kept, or controlled by such person, or caused by any activity of such person.
- (2) When the offending noise source is located in public spaces, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, any location a passerby might reasonably occupy. When the offending noise source is located on private property, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, the boundary line of the property within which the offending source is located, or as close thereto as feasible.
- (3) All noise level measurements made pursuant to subsection (e) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

(f) *Time Restrictions.*

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from all electric motors and/or internal combustion engines employed in yard, garden, or grounds maintenance is prohibited except during the following time periods:
  - (A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays; or
  - (B) Between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited except

## #31-15 DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES (4/28/2015)

§ 20-13          NEWTON ORDINANCES — CIVIL FINES AND MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES          § 20-13

during the following time periods:

(A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays; or

(B) Between: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays;

(C) Generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited at any hour on Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances, except by permit issued in accordance with subsection (h)(1).

- (3) All public address loudspeakers, either mobile or stationary, shall be prohibited from operating every evening from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the following morning.
- (4) No automobile, motorcycle, truck or vehicle-mounted refrigeration equipment or other motorized vehicle shall be left running when not in traffic, within three hundred (300) feet of any dwelling, hotel or residence, for a period of greater than five (5) minutes.
- (5) Between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. deliveries and pick-ups for commercial or business purposes are prohibited within 300 feet of any dwelling within a residential zone excepting deliveries to such dwellings, deliveries of gasoline to gasoline stations, deliveries or pick-ups at state or federal governmental offices and any other commercial or business delivery or pick-up operation that does not increase noise levels 5dB(A) or more above background noise level. For purposes of this subsection, "deliveries" and "pick-ups" shall include the loading and unloading of a vehicle.
- (6) Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. trash collection shall be prohibited within five hundred (500) feet of any dwelling.
- (7) Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. no person or persons shall disturb the peace by causing or allowing to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise, including but not limited to such noise resulting from the operation of any electronic device, or from the playing of any band or orchestra, or from the making of excessive outcries, exclamations, or loud singing or any other excessive noise by a person or group of persons, provided however, that any performance, concert, establishment, band group or person who has received and maintains a valid license or permit from any department, board, or commission of the City of Newton authorized to issue such license or permit shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Unreasonable or excessive noise for the purposes of this section shall be defined as 5dB(A) or more above background level when measured not closer than the lot line of a residential lot or from the nearest affected dwelling unit.

(g) *Maximum Noise Levels.* Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e)(1) and (e)(2), the following are the maximum noise levels that are permitted for the specified purposes:

*Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:*

(1) *Vehicles*

Vehicle Class ..... Stationary or Moving

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All vehicles over 10,000 lbs. GVW  
or GCWR ..... 86

All Motorcycles ..... 82

Automobiles and light trucks..... 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the closest point of pass-by of a source or fifty (50) feet from a stationary vehicle.

(2) Construction and demolition.

The cumulative noise level of all construction and demolition on one site at any one time shall not exceed 90dB(A). No individual piece of equipment shall exceed a maximum noise level of 90 dB(A). If noise barriers are used that effectively shield nearby areas from a condition of noise pollution, the following devices shall be exempt from the maximum noise level limitations: jackhammers; pavement breakers; pile drivers; and rock drills.

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Backhoe, bulldozer, concrete mixer, dump truck, loader, paver, pneumatic tools, roller, scraper 90

Air compressor ..... 85

Generator ..... 90

Electric drills, sanders, saws (except chainsaws) or other power tools of all types, whether hand held or otherwise ..... 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

(3) Yard, Garden, or Grounds Maintenance Equipment

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Commercial Chipper, 3 1/2 inch or greater limb capacity (running at full speed but not chipping) 90

Commercial truck-mounted leaf  
vacuum..... 90

All other equipment, including home  
tractor, ~~leaf blower~~, lawn mower  
or trimmer ..... 65



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## § 20-13 NEWTON ORDINANCES — CIVIL FINES AND MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES § 20-13

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

- (4) *Tonal Sound Corrections.* When a tonal sound is emitted by a noise source specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3) herein, the limit on maximum noise levels shall be 5dB(A) lower than as specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3).
- (5) *Maximum Noise Levels for HVAC systems.* No person shall operate any air conditioning, refrigeration or heating equipment for any residence or other structure or operate any pumping, filtering or heating equipment for any pool or reservoir in such manner as to create any noise which would cause the noise level on the premises of any other occupied property or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, to exceed the background noise level by more than 5 dB(A). This provision shall not apply, however, to periodic or emergency maintenance or testing of such equipment reasonably necessary to maintain such equipment in good working order. Noise measurements and noise pollution determinations shall be taken in accordance with subsections (e)(2) and (e)(3).
- (6) *Alternative Measurement Procedures.* If it is not possible to make a good noise level measurement at the distance specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3), measurement may be made at an alternate distance and the noise level subsequently calculated for the specified distance. Calculations shall be made in accordance with established engineering procedures.
- (7) All noise-level measurements made pursuant to subsection (g) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

(h) *Restrictions on use of leaf blowers.* Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20-13 (f) and (g), no person, including any City employee or contractor, shall use or operate a leaf blower within the City of Newton from June 1 through September 15 in each year. At all other times leaf blowers may be operated subject to the following provisions:

(1) Permitted hours of use. Leaf blowers may be operated only during the following times:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sundays and legal holidays: prohibited except for operation by a resident of the property on which the leaf blower is operated between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

(2). Only leaf blowers meeting the following criteria are permitted for use:

A. Leaf blowers must be manufactured after January 1, 2005 for EPA Class 4 engines and after January 1, 2008 for EPA Class 5 engines;

B. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer's label indicating the model number of the leaf blower;

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C. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer's label documenting a noise rating of 65 dB(A) or less; and

D. Leaf blowers may only be used with any muffler, full extension tube and sound attenuating devices supplied by the manufacturer of the leaf blower.

(3) *Emergency Use.* During times of emergency caused by a storm or other special circumstance, the Mayor may temporarily suspend application of this section for purposes of cleaning up from such storm or other special circumstance.

*(hi) Permits for exemptions from this ordinance and for extensions of time to comply with this ordinance.*

(1) The mayor or his designee may grant a permit for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this ordinance upon a determination by the mayor or his designee that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account: (i) the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance; and (ii) whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such permits, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate. In granting any such permit, the mayor or his designee may impose such appropriate conditions as he deems necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen promptly after issuance. Promptly after issuance, copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen and to each ward alderman for the affected ward.

(2) The mayor or his designee may extend to a specified date the time for compliance with this ordinance in the case of any particular activity with respect to which a determination is made that such extension is necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for such activity to be brought into compliance. No such extension shall be granted which has the effect of exempting such activity from compliance with this ordinance. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such extensions of time, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate.

*(ij) Judicial Review.* Any person aggrieved by the grant or denial of a permit pursuant to subsection (h)(1) or an extension of time pursuant to subsection (h)(2) may seek relief therefrom by a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*(jk) Penalties.* Violation of any of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and any person, upon conviction of such violation, shall be fined an amount not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Each day that such violation continues shall be considered to be a separate offense.

*(kl) Non-criminal disposition.* In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (j), where non-criminal disposition of specified sections of this ordinance by civil fine has been provided for in sections 20-20 and 20-21 of the Revised Ordinances, as amended, pursuant to the authority granted by G.L. c. 40, sec. 21D, said violations may be enforced in the manner provided in such statute. The civil penalty for each such violation is set out in Sections 20-21(c) and 20-21(d).

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(4m) *Severability*. If any provision(s) of this ordinance or the application of such provision(s) to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this ordinance and the applicability of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. (Ord. No. R-331, 6-20-83; Ord. No. T-62, 12-4-89; Ord. No. T-200, 12-16-91; Ord. No. V-286, 3-6-00; Ord. Z-32, 7-14-08; Ord. No. Z-78, 02-22-11; Ord. No. Z-104, 04-02-12)

**Cross reference**—Sounding warning devices on motor vehicles, § 19-72; noise by hawkers and peddlers, § 17-26.

**Secs. 20-14—20-19. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE III.  
CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION**

**Sec. 20-20. Certain ordinance violations subject to civil fine.**

(a) As an alternative to initiating criminal proceedings, the sections of these revised ordinances which are listed in section 20-21 may be enforced in the manner provided in General Laws c. 40, section 21D.

(b) Any such enforcing person, as listed in section 20-21, who takes cognizance of a violation of such an ordinance may give to the offender a written notice to appear before the clerk of the district court for Newton at any time during the court's office hours, not later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of such notice.

(c) Non-criminal disposition upon payment of notice of violation. *Any person notified to appear before the clerk of a district court as hereinbefore provided may so appear and confess the offense charged, either personally or through a duly authorized agent or by mailing to the city clerk together with the notice such specific sum of money as established under section 20-21 as penalty for violation of the ordinance. Upon receipt of such notice and payment, the city clerk shall forthwith notify the district court clerk of such payment and the receipt by the district court clerk of such notification shall operate as a final disposition of the case. An appearance under this subsection shall not be deemed to be a criminal proceeding. No person so notified to appear before the clerk of a*

## #31-15 (LEAF BLOWERS)

## DRAFT REDLINE FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES (10/8/2015)

(Transition period leading to total ban version)

(Added language underscored; deleted language struck through)

**ARTICLE II.****NOISE****Sec. 20-13. Noise control.**

(a) This ordinance may be cited as the "Noise Control Ordinance of the City of Newton."

(b) *Declaration of findings and policy.* Whereas excessive sound is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare, safety, and the quality of life; and whereas a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated; and, whereas the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound that may jeopardize their health or welfare or safety or degrade the quality of life; now therefor it is the policy of the City of Newton to prevent excessive sound which may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life.

(c) *Scope.* This ordinance shall apply to the control of all sound originating within the limits of the City of Newton except as follows:

- (1) the emission of sound for the purpose of alerting persons to the existence of an emergency or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work or in training exercises related to emergency activities; and
- (2) all snow clearance activities; and
- (3) any program or activity supervised by the parks and recreation department of the city in effect and as it exists on June 1, 1983.

(d) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this ordinance the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

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(e) *Noise Pollution prohibited.*

- (1) No person shall willfully, negligently, or through failure to provide necessary equipment or facilities or to take necessary precautions permit the establishment or continuation of a condition of noise pollution caused by a noise source (other than a dog or bird) owned, leased, kept, or controlled by such person, or caused by any activity of such person.
- (2) When the offending noise source is located in public spaces, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, any location a passerby might reasonably occupy. When the offending noise source is located on private property, noise measurements shall be made at, and noise pollution determinations made in relation to, the boundary line of the property within which the offending source is located, or as close thereto as feasible.
- (3) All noise level measurements made pursuant to subsection (e) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

(f) *Time Restrictions.*

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from all electric motors and/or internal combustion engines employed in yard, garden, or grounds maintenance is prohibited except during the following time periods:
  - (A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays; or
  - (B) Between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) and subject to the maximum noise levels listed in subsection (g), the generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited except

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during the following time periods:

(A) Between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays; or

(B) Between: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays;

(C) Generation of any noise from construction and demolition activity is prohibited at any hour on Sundays and legal holidays as established in section 2-26 of these revised ordinances, except by permit issued in accordance with subsection (h)(1).

- (3) All public address loudspeakers, either mobile or stationary, shall be prohibited from operating every evening from 9:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the following morning.
- (4) No automobile, motorcycle, truck or vehicle-mounted refrigeration equipment or other motorized vehicle shall be left running when not in traffic, within three hundred (300) feet of any dwelling, hotel or residence, for a period of greater than five (5) minutes.
- (5) Between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m. deliveries and pick-ups for commercial or business purposes are prohibited within 300 feet of any dwelling within a residential zone excepting deliveries to such dwellings, deliveries of gasoline to gasoline stations, deliveries or pick-ups at state or federal governmental offices and any other commercial or business delivery or pick-up operation that does not increase noise levels 5dB(A) or more above background noise level. For purposes of this subsection, "deliveries" and "pick-ups" shall include the loading and unloading of a vehicle.
- (6) Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. trash collection shall be prohibited within five hundred (500) feet of any dwelling.
- (7) Between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. no person or persons shall disturb the peace by causing or allowing to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise, including but not limited to such noise resulting from the operation of any electronic device, or from the playing of any band or orchestra, or from the making of excessive outcries, exclamations, or loud singing or any other excessive noise by a person or group of persons, provided however, that any performance, concert, establishment, band group or person who has received and maintains a valid license or permit from any department, board, or commission of the City of Newton authorized to issue such license or permit shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Unreasonable or excessive noise for the purposes of this section shall be defined as 5dB(A) or more above background level when measured not closer than the lot line of a residential lot or from the nearest affected dwelling unit.

(g) *Maximum Noise Levels.* Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (e)(1) and (e)(2), the following are the maximum noise levels that are permitted for the specified purposes:

*Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:*

(1) *Vehicles*

Vehicle Class ..... Stationary or Moving

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All vehicles over 10,000 lbs. GVW  
or GCWR ..... 86

All Motorcycles ..... 82

Automobiles and light trucks..... 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the closest point of pass-by of a source or fifty (50) feet from a stationary vehicle.

(2) Construction and demolition.

The cumulative noise level of all construction and demolition on one site at any one time shall not exceed 90dB(A). No individual piece of equipment shall exceed a maximum noise level of 90 dB(A). If noise barriers are used that effectively shield nearby areas from a condition of noise pollution, the following devices shall be exempt from the maximum noise level limitations: jackhammers; pavement breakers; pile drivers; and rock drills.

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Backhoe, bulldozer, concrete mixer, dump truck, loader, paver, pneumatic tools, roller, scraper 90

Air compressor ..... 85

Generator ..... 90

Electric drills, sanders, saws (except chainsaws) or other power tools of all types, whether hand held or otherwise ..... 75

Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

(3) Yard, Garden, or Grounds Maintenance Equipment

Maximum noise level dB(A) permitted:

Commercial Chipper, 3 1/2 inch or greater limb capacity (running at full speed but not chipping) 90

Commercial truck-mounted leaf  
vacuum..... 90

All other equipment, including home  
tractor, leaf blower, lawn mower  
or trimmer ..... 65

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Noise measurements shall be made at a distance of fifty (50) feet from the source, or from the nearest lot line, whichever distance is less.

- (4) *Tonal Sound Corrections.* When a tonal sound is emitted by a noise source specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3) herein, the limit on maximum noise levels shall be 5dB(A) lower than as specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3).
- (5) *Maximum Noise Levels for HVAC systems.* No person shall operate any air conditioning, refrigeration or heating equipment for any residence or other structure or operate any pumping, filtering or heating equipment for any pool or reservoir in such manner as to create any noise which would cause the noise level on the premises of any other occupied property or if a condominium, apartment house, duplex, or attached business, within any adjoining unit, to exceed the background noise level by more than 5 dB(A). This provision shall not apply, however, to periodic or emergency maintenance or testing of such equipment reasonably necessary to maintain such equipment in good working order. Noise measurements and noise pollution determinations shall be taken in accordance with subsections (e)(2) and (e)(3).
- (6) *Alternative Measurement Procedures.* If it is not possible to make a good noise level measurement at the distance specified in subsections (g)(1), (g)(2) and (g)(3), measurement may be made at an alternate distance and the noise level subsequently calculated for the specified distance. Calculations shall be made in accordance with established engineering procedures.
- (7) All noise-level measurements made pursuant to subsection (g) shall be made with a Type I or II A-weighted sound level meter as specified under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

*The following language of section (h) shall be effective until June 1, 2018:*

*(h) Transitional Restriction on use of leaf blowers. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 20-13 (f) and (g), until June 1, 2018, no person, including any City employee or contractor, shall use or operate a leaf blower within the City of Newton from June 1 through September 15 in each year. At all other times leaf blowers may be operated subject to the following provisions:*

*(1) Permitted hours of use. Leaf blowers may be operated only during the following times:*

*Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.*

*Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.*

*Sundays and legal holidays: prohibited except for operation by a resident of the property on which the leaf blower is operated between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.*

*(2). Only leaf blowers meeting the following criteria are permitted for use:*

*A. Leaf blowers must be manufactured after January 1, 2005 for EPA Class 4 engines and after January 1, 2008 for EPA Class 5 engines;*

*B. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer's label indicating the model number of the leaf blower;*



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C. Leaf blowers must bear an affixed manufacturer's label documenting a noise rating of 65 dB(A) or less; and

D. Leaf blowers may only be used with any muffler, full extension tube and sound attenuating devices supplied by the manufacturer of the leaf blower.

(3) *Emergency Use.* During times of emergency caused by a storm or other special circumstance, the Mayor may temporarily suspend application of this section for purposes of cleaning up from such storm or other special circumstance.

*The following language of section (h) shall be effective after June 1, 2018:*

(h) *Use of leaf blowers prohibited.*

(1) No person, including any City employee or contractor, shall use or operate a leaf blower within the City of Newton.

(2) During times of emergency caused by a storm or other special circumstance, the Mayor may temporarily suspend application of this section for purposes of cleaning up from such storm or other special circumstance.

(hi) *Permits for exemptions from this ordinance and for extensions of time to comply with this ordinance.*

- (1) The mayor or his designee may grant a permit for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this ordinance upon a determination by the mayor or his designee that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account: (i) the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance; and (ii) whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such permits, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate. In granting any such permit, the mayor or his designee may impose such appropriate conditions as he deems necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen promptly after issuance. Promptly after issuance, copies of all such permits shall be filed with the clerk of the board of aldermen and to each ward alderman for the affected ward.
- (2) The mayor or his designee may extend to a specified date the time for compliance with this ordinance in the case of any particular activity with respect to which a determination is made that such extension is necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for such activity to be brought into compliance. No such extension shall be granted which has the effect of exempting such activity from compliance with this ordinance. The mayor or his designee shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such extensions of time, including such hearings as the mayor or his designee deems appropriate.

(ij) *Judicial Review.* Any person aggrieved by the grant or denial of a permit pursuant to subsection (h)(1) or an

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extension of time pursuant to subsection (h)(2) may seek relief therefrom by a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(jk) *Penalties.* Violation of any of the provisions of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor and any person, upon conviction of such violation, shall be fined an amount not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Each day that such violation continues shall be considered to be a separate offense.

(kl) *Non-criminal disposition.* In addition to the penalties set forth in subsection (j), where non-criminal disposition of specified sections of this ordinance by civil fine has been provided for in sections 20-20 and 20-21 of the Revised Ordinances, as amended, pursuant to the authority granted by G.L. c. 40, sec. 21D, said violations may be enforced in the manner provided in such statute. The civil penalty for each such violation is set out in Sections 20-21(c) and 20-21(d).

(lm) *Severability.* If any provision(s) of this ordinance or the application of such provision(s) to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this ordinance and the applicability of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. (Ord. No. R-331, 6-20-83; Ord. No. T-62, 12-4-89; Ord. No. T-200, 12-16-91; Ord. No. V-286, 3-6-00; Ord. Z-32, 7-14-08; Ord. No. Z-78, 02-22-11; Ord. No. Z-104, 04-02-12)

**Cross reference**—Sounding warning devices on motor vehicles, § 19-72; noise by hawkers and peddlers, § 17-26.

**Secs. 20-14—20-19. Reserved.**

### ARTICLE III. CIVIL FINES/NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITION

**Sec. 20-20. Certain ordinance violations subject to civil fine.**

(a) As an alternative to initiating criminal proceedings, the sections of these revised ordinances which are listed in section 20-21 may be enforced in the manner provided in General Laws c. 40, section 21D.

(b) Any such enforcing person, as listed in section 20-21, who takes cognizance of a violation of such an ordinance may give to the offender a written notice to appear before the clerk of the district court for Newton at any time during the court's office hours, not later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of such notice.

(c) *Non-criminal disposition upon payment of notice of violation. Any person notified to appear before the clerk of a district court as hereinbefore provided may so appear and confess the offense charged, either personally or through a duly authorized agent or by mailing to the city clerk together with the notice such specific sum of money as established under section 20-21 as penalty for violation of the ordinance. Upon receipt of such notice and payment, the city clerk shall forthwith notify the district court clerk of such payment and the receipt by the district court clerk of such notification shall operate as a final disposition of the case. An appearance under this subsection shall not be deemed to be a criminal proceeding. No person so notified to appear before the clerk of a*

## **ISSUES STILL TO BE DETERMINED** **From 9/30/15 Programs & Services Report**

### **Limit Number of Leaf Blowers by Property Size**

Ald. Sangiolo would like to get some more information on this. It's difficult to know what the impact on noise level would be as well as the length of time needed to run the machines if limited. Perhaps the landscapers would have some insight. Some Committee members felt it was impractical in terms of enforcement to set limits. Lots sizes vary widely in Newton, whereas Arlington's lot sizes are generally about 6,000 square feet and don't vary as much, which makes enforcement easier. Ald. Sangiolo will check with the representative from Arlington, Mr. Greeley.

Conclusion: *To be determined.*

### **Exemptions**

The Committee has already mentioned an exemption for electric models for personal use on Sunday's by residents. Otherwise, the draft ordinance does not allow any exemptions. Some Committee members felt it would be sending the wrong message to allow the City to be exempt from this ordinance. On the other hand, the golf courses may be reasonable to exempt as they need them to keep the greens in good order, however, all alternatives need to be explored before allowing an exemption. The colleges and other non-residential large properties need to be considered as well. Any exemption should have clear restrictions as well.

Commissioner DeRubeis has told Ald. Sangiolo that his department will abide by whatever ordinance is put in place. She would like to know what equipment the Parks & Recreation Department uses and the Committee would like hear Commissioner DeRubeis' thoughts as well.

Conclusion: *To be determined.*

### **Enforcement**

Several Committee members noted that enforcement has been difficult. Using a dB level that has to be measured has not been effective in Newton, as was mentioned by Officer Marzilli when he joined the Committee earlier in the year. The Police Department wants an ordinance that is clear-cut and simpler to enforce. Committee members felt that a seasonal ban would be easier to enforce as it is much more clear-cut. The label on the machine states the dB level so the officers will not have to measure the noise with a meter. If the machine is older and does not have a label then it is not allowed for use.

A Committee member had heard a suggestion from a resident that perhaps there could be a complaint driven process. After a certain number of complaints are registered, an officer goes out instead of going out on each call. Another idea is to ticket the homeowner instead of the contractor because they are ultimately responsible for what is happening on their own property by people they are paying to provide a service. Some Committee members felt it was better to set up the conditions so that the violation opportunities are fewer and keep the police as enforcement to ticket the contractors because homeowners are not often home when contractors

are there. For snow removal, however, if a contractor puts snow on a sidewalk from private property, the homeowner is held responsible, not the contractor. It is something to consider.

It was suggested that the homeowner be notified if their contractor is in violation and receives either a warning or a ticket as a dual enforcement method. There are homeowners who ask their contractor not to use leaf blowers at all, and some companies don't use leaf blowers as a policy choice. These are choices for the homeowner to make when they are paying for a service. The Law Department, Inspectional Services Department and Police Department would need to be consulted on this. Neither Arlington nor Brookline use that method. It might be something to explore.

Conclusion: *To be determined.*