

Summertime Open Windows Call for Caution on Noise Levels

Summertime means lots of open windows and patio doors. Most of us are just a few feet away from our neighbors next door or behind us. So please be courteous and considerate of your neighbors, who might not want to hear all your patio conversations, or listen to your music or the TV sounds emanating from within your Townhome all day long, or the noise of your after-hours partying.

In fact, Pasco Municipal Code (PMC) 9.61 prohibits public disturbance noise between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. when it comes to people causing noise by voice, a musical instrument, whistle, sound amplifier, juke box, radio, television, or other similar device in a residential area.

However, frequent, repetitive or continuous sounds made by an animal (barking dog, for instance), the sound of engine exhaust, or motorcycle, motorbike, or ATV not conforming to muffler standards for street operation and similar noises don't have to occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. to qualify as a noise disturbance.

Regardless of the type or time of noise, if two or more persons occupying separate residences from where the sound is emanating report a noise complaint, it qualifies as a public disturbance.

PMC 9.61 further says that violations are deemed to be civil infractions with a penalty for each instance up to \$250.

If you are being disturbed by noise from your neighbors or their pets, call the Pasco Police non-emergency number, 545-3510, especially if it's after 10 at night or before 7 in the morning. During the day you can also report disturbances to City Code Enforcement by calling 543-5743.