

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Ashley Scholhamer <aescholhamer@gmail.com>  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:25 AM  
RTM  
Noise Ordinance Support

Hello,

I am a Fairfield resident reaching out to voice my support for the proposed revisions to the noise ordinance. As a soon to be mother, I worry that Fairfield does not offer enough protection during daytime hours under the current ordinance. We have an opportunity to bring our laws up to par with surrounding towns. I encourage you to support this much needed progress!

Best,  
Ashley

**From:** Susan Sarrazin <sarrazins@stlukesct.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** RTM  
**Subject:** Support for noise ordinance.

Hello

We wanted to send in our support for the noise ordinance to pass. We reside at 954 Fairfield Beach Rd.

Thank you for your support and work

Susan and Robert Sarrazin

Sent from my iPhone

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Ashley Scholhamer <aescholhamer@gmail.com>  
Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:00 AM  
RTM  
Response to Noise Ordinance Concerns

Dear RTMs,

I am grateful to those of you who have expressed support for the noise ordinance revision. I have heard pushback from a few of you and wanted to address common themes I have heard, and some additional themes on which I can lend an expert opinion as a Medical Doctor. Thank you in advance for reading this email.

### **1. Legality of the current ordinance**

The town noise ordinance, as currently written, does not appear to be legal. The town ordinance specifically notes that noise restrictions are limited to nighttime hours, and that daytime complaints are left for police to subjectively label as "Disorderly conduct" or "Creating a public disturbance" in order to receive a citation.

The state requires that *"Any such municipal noise control ordinance shall be at least as stringent as any state noise control plan."* (CT General Statutes Sec. 22a-73)

If you read the state ordinance, it outlines decibel limits during the daytime which vary given the type of zoning under which the area falls. Residential zoning emitters are limited to 55 dBA during the daytime, and noise levels above that are a noise violation. (Sec. 22a-69-3.5)

*By not enforcing daytime decibel limits, we, as a town, are in violation of the state ordinance.*

A daytime noise ordinance would not make Fairfield more strict than the towns that rely on the state ordinance. It would bring us into compliance with the state laws that other towns already use, and to which we should already legally be subjected. There is a reason why every other CT town with its own ordinance includes daytime restrictions.

### **2. The public health impacts of noise pollution**

It is well known in the medical field that modifiable environmental factors can contribute to poor health outcomes. Studies show that noise pollution counts as one such environmental factor. Therefore, noise pollution is not only an annoyance but is a threat to our health. This is not meant to ignore the effects of chronic annoyance on mental health, which is also an issue, but to point out the multiple other health impacts.

Studies of noise pollution have linked it to serious health consequences, such as high blood pressure, hardening of blood vessels, heart attack, stroke, and cognitive decline. Of particular concern is that effects such as cognitive decline have been demonstrated in children, and it is known that stressors in childhood can have lifelong impacts on health. We should recognize our duty to limit these exposures.

### **3. Socioeconomic disparities and exposure to noise pollution**

Fairfield is a town with socioeconomic diversity. Many residents live in multifamily housing and more concentrated areas not because they are voluntarily choosing a noisier life, but because these options are often more economically feasible. Those who argue we should all simply live in Greenfield Hill to escape harmful noise pollution clearly have the financial privilege of being able to do so.

Refusing to address the problem of noise pollution because of the common refrain, "we should all know better than to live in a populated part of town," not only ignores that this includes a large percentage of our town's residential areas (we will not all fit in the parts of town assessed for two acre zoning, surely you are not asking us all to leave town?) but also assumes an often economically unattainable level of mobility.

Should families, particularly children, be left to suffer the medical consequences of noise pollution because they cannot afford to live in a less densely populated section of Fairfield?

We have the ability to design our noise ordinance to help all of our residents live more equitably, without undue burden on anyone.

#### **4. Limits in the revision apply to noise producing devices only**

The proposed revision clearly states that it applies only to noise producing devices. This is in line with the state ordinance, which excludes the enforcement of noise produced by the unamplified human voice or by animals. No one is coming after your children for laughing as they play in the backyard.

#### **5. The role of legislators vs. enforcers**

I have heard from some that the statement by Chief Kalamaras is dissuading them from voting for this revision. The ability of the police to enforce the law as it is currently written does not mean there are no improvements we can make to the ordinance that police can also enforce.

You as RTMs are a legislative body that creates ordinances that our police enforce. You are elected officials charged with listening to the concerns of the people and creating meaningful change. While it is very useful to have the input of the police department on the feasibility of enforcing new laws, a statement suggesting the current law is enforceable does not mean it cannot be changed for the better. Your constituents are telling you there is a problem. Please hear our concerns.

This is not a partisan issue, and it is sad to see it playing out in your discussions that way. Support for this ordinance at the constituent level does not fall along party lines. You have an opportunity here to improve the quality of life in Fairfield.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Scholhamer, MD

**From:** Jeff Peterson <jpete@optonline.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 2:08 PM  
**To:** RTM  
**Subject:** Proposed amendments to Fairfield noise ordinance

Good afternoon--

I am writing to urge RTM members to be very thoughtful in their approach to the amendments to Fairfield's noise ordinance (scheduled for a first read at your 27-Mar meeting). While I am sympathetic to the aim of reducing excessive noise, the measures outlined in the draft strike me as very heavy-handed. I was also surprised to read that although the proposal argues our current ordinance does not give the Police Department the appropriate tools, this proposal was NOT driven by the needs of the department (see the 21-Mar Patch).

Having read the current ordinance, I do understand the impulse to decouple noise-enforcement efforts from reliance on a sound level meter, But the proposal goes far beyond this and suggests several restrictions which I believe are unduly harsh. Just a few thoughts:

- The "inside a residence" standard (see §78-5) is very nonspecific (summertime with screens? winter with storm windows?) and does not take into account smaller residential lot sizes. With all my windows and doors closed, I can clearly hear my neighbor practice blowing the shofar (a "sound production device") ahead of his temple's Rosh Hashanah celebration each year. Noise violation? Perhaps "unnecessary horn blowing" under §78-8?
- That section also bans noisy yard-maintenance equipment after 5pm on weekends and 7pm on weekdays. Again, I get what the proposal is trying to do but this could put a significant burden on families who are not free to do their yard work during the earlier part of the day or don't have the financial luxury of paying for a service. 7pm in July is not really very "late."
- The §78-8 exemptions, section N changes the carve-out to **only** include events that are "open to the public." Both high schools are planning outdoor graduation ceremonies which are invitation only. I would also argue that the variety of school carnivals, walkathons, etc that our schools host are not "open to the public."
- I wonder whether pushing residential trash collection later in the day is going to create a lot of chaos along Reef Rd/One Rod Highway as the garbage trucks come and go at much the same time as the school buses

These are just some very quick reflections, but what should be clear is that this proposal could stand a great deal more review and consideration. I worry very much that the proposed ordinance amendment, perhaps sparked by concerns about excessive leaf-blower use and loud Fairfield U parties, would be broadened so wide as to turn many of us into violators for a variety of innocuous behaviors.

Jeff Peterson  
133 Marne Ave

**From:** fair acres Fairfield <fairacresfairfield@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 10:26 AM  
**To:** RTM  
**Cc:** ianbass123@gmail.com; fair acres Fairfield; First Selectwoman  
**Subject:** Noise Ordinance

Dear RTM members,

For those who might not be aware, The Fair Acres Association is the oldest and largest beach area association in town, with deeded beach access rights. We are on the town map, pay real estate taxes as an organization to the town, and maintain two of the Pentways from Fairfield Beach Rd to the beach, as well as the garden between the Pavilions.

Night-time noise in the area near the Penfield complex has been an issue for years. I realize that the majority of you do not live in this area, but I'm sure you are aware that approximately 30 to 40% of our town's noise complaints come from the beach area.

Parks and Rec Director Calabrese has been sensitive to this issue and has helped to try to enforce the rules with Pavilion renters (20-25% of whom are non-Fairfield residents) and Police Chief Kalamaras has been responsive to calls made by residents late at night or into the early morning hours. HOWEVER, the parties are supposed to end at 11 PM, and the "clean up crew" is supposed to be done and gone by midnight. **This rarely happens.** Do you or your family enjoy sleeping with the windows open, or even cracked open when the weather is nice enough? We can't. All too often we are awakened by either party goers who linger in the parking lots, or worse, the clean up crews dragging garbage cans around, loading catering trucks, breaking down the temporary food service tents, etc., between midnight and 1:30 AM. As responsive as the Police are, if we are awakened enough to have to call them, it's too late for us....now we're awake. Most neighbors I know have stopped calling, and instead just close their windows, turn on the A/C and try to go back to sleep.

As bad as that all is, there are some "non-town-sponsored" activities such as exercise classes that take place at the Pavilions and beach as early as 6-6:30 AM on a weekend morning. How would you feel if the noise kept you up until 1:30 AM, and then there was the noise of cars pressing the lock button "beep" and people clapping and barking exercise drills just 5 hours later?

Clearly, something needs to be done about the noise ordinance, and establishing and enforcing "quiet hours". One suggestion was to have the party rentals end at 10, and the clean up crew end at 11. This way, when the clean up crew runs late, maybe at least they will be gone by midnight so residents can get to sleep. People who do not live near the Pavilions are not sensitive to this topic, but I would hope you as leaders would realize that the Party Pavilions are located right in the middle of a densely populated residential neighborhood, and I doubt anyone would want a Commercial Banquet business in your neighborhood. We have to live with it, but at least it should be within reason.

Thank you for your consideration in helping us sleep at night.

Sincerely,

Ian Bass

President

The Fair Acres Association, Inc.

PO Box 1

Fairfield, CT 06824

203-981-4300

**From:** Scott Verchin <scottverchin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 10:38 AM  
**To:** RTM  
**Subject:** Noise Ordinance

Dear RTM.

This is Scott Verchin, a 27-year Fairfield resident living in District 3. I am reaching out to all of you collectively regarding the noise ordinance that's been in discussion for quite some time.

Back in 2020, when all of us were home due to the pandemic, I sent an email to the RTM about early morning noise from contractors, landscapers and individual residents, using industrial-level equipment.

I suggested that the RTM roll back the start times for this type of work to 8am weekdays and 9am weekends/holidays. Quite frankly, the 7am and 8am start times, respectively, are just too early. We shouldn't have to be awakened to the sounds of buzzsaws, lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc.

The pandemic gave us an opportunity to reboot and rethink what's important in our lives. Quality of life became a top priority for many. We live in a beautiful coastal community, and with nicer weather and longer daylight hours approaching, our mornings should be quiet and civil.

I understand there are concerns from people around town, involving things like decibel levels along with what is considered "noise". Let me clarify that I am not referring to sanitation trucks, school buses or even children playing outside. This is targeted primarily at businesses, many of them based in other communities.

I have also understood that there is pushback from the FPD on this, because this would be difficult to enforce. With a proper communication strategy, which would include informing those businesses that are responsible for the vast majority of noise, this can be executed quite smoothly and efficiently. As someone who's lived here for close to 30 years, I have good faith in our neighbors that we can do this in a very courteous and cordial manner.

All that said, I urge you to strongly consider rolling back these start times and putting the concerns and welfare of Fairfield residents first.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

**SCOTT VERCHIN**

**+1 (203) 522-1331**

**[scottverchin@gmail.com](mailto:scottverchin@gmail.com)**

**[www.scottverchin.com](http://www.scottverchin.com)**

**From:** Alyssa Israel <alisrael@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 7:46 AM  
**To:** RTM  
**Cc:** Baldwin, James  
**Subject:** Weekend nighttime hours should be 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to comply with State statute

Dear RTM,

It recently came to my attention that our existing Weekend nighttime hour of 11:00 p.m. does not comply with State statute:

- “(n) **nighttime** means **10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.** local time.” ([https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/Title\\_22aSubtitle\\_22a-69Section\\_22a-69-1.1/](https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/Title_22aSubtitle_22a-69Section_22a-69-1.1/)); and
- “(c) Any such municipal noise control ordinance **shall be at least as stringent** as any state noise control plan, including ambient noise standards, adopted pursuant to section 22a-69.” ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_442.htm](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_442.htm))

Thus, please change our **Weekend Schedule to 10:00 p.m. through 8:00 a.m.** to comply with State statute.

Thank you,

Alyssa Israel, MPH  
679 Rowland Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
Tel/Fax: 203-256-1779  
Cell: 203-685-5835  
[alisrael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alisrael@sbcglobal.net)



**From:** Mary Kay <m.kay93@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 11:28 AM  
**To:** Vergara, Jill; McDermott, Mark A.; Wackerman, Karen  
**Subject:** Landscaping noise

I can't believe the town would take up time to discuss the noise made by landscapers. We have more urgent items to discuss.

First of all, you cannot get hurt or killed by the landscapers' noise. So take the time and energy on this subject and find a way to eliminate the dangerous traffic throughout the town. Every day I see dangerous moves by drivers, all of whom seem to be in a hurry. Just today while driving to work on Commerce Drive, the traffic light ahead of me was turning red so I slowed down to stop. The car behind me blew the horn and then turned around me on the right side and zoomed through a red light, nearly causing an accident with the 2 cars across from me on Black Rock Tpke.

I understand the police department does not have enough manpower to control the traffic, but to waste their time with noise from landscaping?? Nothing is being done for the trash problem on my street, but some people want a peaceful evening. I just don't understand the thinking on this.

Thank you.  
Mary W. Kay  
85 Belmont Street  
Fairfield, CT 06824

**From:** michaelakatz@optonline.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** RTM  
**Subject:** Noise Ordinance

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing to voice support for the proposed noise ordinance as drafted.

We are frequently bothered by noise from the Sacred Heart football field loudspeakers during games, rallies, and other campus events. Although we reside approximately one-quarter of a mile away from the football field, the arm of the Fairchild Wheeler golf course that separates us does not provide much buffer, and recent decibel readings have been in the 60's and 70's for both music and announcements.

Sacred Heart has not been responsive to our complaints to the police department have not been fruitful, so a town ordinance is needed to ameliorate the situation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael and Judy Katz

310 Autumn Ridge Road  
Fairfield, CT 06825  
203.962.2492

**From:** Quinn, Linda <LQuinn@FPLCT.ORG>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** RTM  
**Subject:** Noise Ordinance

Hi,

I have lived on Donna Drive since 1998, back when SHU was a commuter/day school. While I understand that the town is very happy with the way SHU has developed and grown, those of us who live right there have had our lives made miserable between the construction, the sports fields and the special occasions they have in the north parking lot. The dances that they hold under a tent, with a band or DJ, make the houses on our street vibrate from the bass, with the windows rattling as well.

It would be nice to have a noise ordinance that covered the level of noise in a way that everyone was on board with and that could be verified and implemented by the police department when a complaint is made. Fairfield has had an existing noise ordinance on the books since we have lived here, and when SHU was first starting to grow we would call the police and they would come up to our street with a decibel reader, see that the noise was too loud, and then go talk to someone at SHU to turn it down. Now that they have grown beyond their means, when noise occurs and we call the police, we are told that the town has no noise ordinance in place and really there is nothing they can do.

I'm very happy this is being discussed and made public because I don't think it's unreasonable to be able to get to sleep before midnight on the nights they have celebrations. Thank you for considering making a noise ordinance that can be upheld in neighborhoods that were once residential.

Best,

Linda Quinn