

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE related to the enforcement of watercraft noise on Seattle waterways by adding a section to 25.08.485 of the Seattle Municipal Code to authorize the Seattle Police Department to regulate noise from audio systems.

WHEREAS; every year in the summer months residents call the Seattle Police Department to report excessive noise that results from watercrafts operated on Seattle waterways.

WHEREAS; Seattle Municipal Code 25.08.485 only addresses the operation of watercrafts and engine noise, not noise that results from audio equipment intended to amplify music and sound on watercrafts.

WHEREAS; Seattle Municipal Code 25.08.485 requires a specific noise meter reading before enforcement action may be taken against excessive noise from the operation of watercraft, unlike the automobile counterpart section in Seattle Municipal Code 25.08.515.

WHEREAS; there is currently no effective way for Seattle Police Harbor Patrol to regulate noise that results from audio equipment on watercraft operated on Seattle waterways.

WHEREAS; implementing a clearly audible ordinance for watercraft noise will streamline enforcement of audio systems and allow Seattle Police Department to effectively regulate excessive noise violations; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. A new section 25.08.485 of the Seattle Municipal Code is added to Subsection A as follows:

- A. It is unlawful for any person to negligently cause, make or allow to be made from audio equipment under such person's control or ownership: the sound from a watercraft audio system or auxiliary audio system aboard the watercraft, such as a radio, tape player or compact disc player, which is operated at such a volume that it could be clearly heard by a person of normal hearing at a distance of three hundred (300) feet or more from the watercraft itself.

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2 Section 2. Section 25.08.485 of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended as follows:

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4 A. It is unlawful for any person to negligently cause, make or allow to be made from  
5 audio equipment under such person's control or ownership: the sound from a watercraft  
6 audio system or auxiliary audio system aboard the watercraft, such as a radio, tape player  
7 or compact disc player, which is operated at such a volume that it could be clearly heard  
8 by a person of normal hearing at a distance of three hundred (300) feet or more from the  
9 watercraft itself.

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11 ~~A.~~ B. It is unlawful for any person to operate any watercraft in such a manner as to  
12 exceed the following exterior sound level limits when measured within 50 feet of the  
13 shoreline or anywhere within a receiving property:

- 14 1. At any hour of the day or night, the limit for any receiving property is 74  
15 dB(A), except that;
- 16 2. Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. the limit for any receiving property within a  
17 residential district is 64 dB(A).

18 ~~B.~~ C. It is unlawful for any person to operate any watercraft, except aircraft, that is not  
19 equipped with a functioning underwater exhaust or a properly installed and  
20 adequately maintained muffler. Any of the following defects in the muffling system is  
21 a violation of this subsection:

- 22 1. The absence of a muffler;
- 23 2. The presence of a muffler cutout, bypass, or similar device that is not standard  
24 or normal equipment for the exhaust system being inspected;



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Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, and  
signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President Sally Clark of the City Council

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

