

ORDINANCE 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9- OFFENSES, CHAPTER 2- OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE, SECTION 9-2-5- NOISE, TO REGULATE NIGHTTIME AND DAYTIME SOUND AND ADD MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE DECIBEL LEVELS AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE DAY.

WHEREAS, excessive or uncontrolled noise can substantially interfere with residents' sleep, peace, and comfort, degrading the quality of life in residential neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, measurable noise levels—defined in decibels (dB)—allow clear standards and objective enforcement across varying districts and times; and,

WHEREAS, during designated quiet hours, typically evening through early morning, lower decibel thresholds protect residents from undue disturbance; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized under South Carolina law to enact regulations addressing nuisances, public welfare, and residential tranquility.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. That Section 9-2-5. Noise. Subsections (b.) and (c.) be amended as follows:

b. *Nighttime sound.* It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or establishment to play, operate or cause an equivalent sound level in excess of 55 dBA at the property line of the complainant as measured with a sound meter conforming to ANSI/ASA S1.13-2005 (or later) during the nighttime, which is the time between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., Friday through Sunday. Additionally, at nighttime it shall be unlawful to play, operate or cause to be played or operated, any radio, amplified musical instrument (including but not limited to brass or drum instruments), or other amplification device or apparatus with the primary purpose of making sound or cause any sound created by yelling, screaming, or loud talking, in such a manner as to be plainly audible on the property of a complainant's place of public accommodations, dwelling or other residence. For the purpose of this section, plainly audible shall mean any sound that can be detected by a person of ordinary sensibilities using his or her unaided hearing faculties, including the understanding of spoken speech, comprehension of whether a voice is raised or normal, or comprehension of musical rhythms.

c. *Daytime sound.* It shall be unlawful for any person, entity or establishment to play, operate or cause sound between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, or between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, in such a manner or with such unreasonably loud volume in the circumstances as to disturb

the quiet, comfort or repose of any reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in any dwelling or other residence.

SECTION 2. That should any part of this Ordinance be held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall be severable therefrom and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

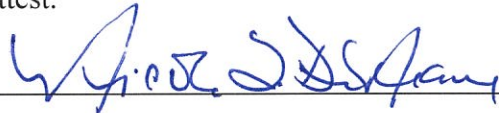
SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as the same affect this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance take effect and be in full force immediately.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2026.

  
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Phillip Pounds, Mayor

(Seal)  
Attest:

  
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Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk  
First Reading: February 24, 2026  
Public Hearing: N/A  
Second Reading: March 24, 2026  
Ratification: March 24, 2026

