

THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
AMENDING CHAPTER 76, “DISTURBING THE PEACE”, SECTION 76-3, “NOISES” OF THE TOWN CODE, TO REGULATE NOISE BETWEEN
THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 10:00 P.M.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Local Government, § 5-202, the Council of Sykesville (“the Town”) has the general power to adopt such ordinances as it may deem necessary in order to assure the good government of the Town, to protect and preserve the Town’s rights, property, and privileges, to preserve peace and good order, to secure persons and property from danger and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS, Md. Code Ann., Environment Article, Title 3 “Noise Control” (“Title 3”), provides that a political subdivision may adopt noise control ordinances, rules, or regulations, provided that that it may not adopt any noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation that is less stringent than the environmental noise standards, sound level limits, and noise control rules and regulations adopted under Title 3; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this authority, and as authorized by the Town Charter, the Town enacted Chapter 76, “Disturbing the Peace,” of the Town Code, including § 76-3, “Noises”; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council desire to preserve peace and good order in the Town and to protect the health, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the Town by amending Section 76-3 to further control noise levels in the Town that can negatively impact residents’ quiet enjoyment of their properties.

Section 1. NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Sykesville, that Town Code, Chapter 76, “Disturbing the Peace,” § 76-3 “Noise,” shall be and hereby is amended as follows:

§ 76-3. Noises.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to create or allow for the creation of disturbance by:
- (1) Uttering, in a public place, including in or on the premises of any place of business open to the general public, any lewd or obscene words or lewd or obscene epithets in the presence or hearing of another to whom such conduct is unwelcome;
 - (2) Shouting or making other vocalizations, projecting amplified sound, or creating other loud and raucous noise between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. that is:
 - (a) Audible beyond the property line if generated on private property;
 - (b) Audible for a distance of more than 10 feet if generated on public property;

(c) Intended to disturb any service in a place of worship or any public meeting or of the AN assemblage of people to witness a lawful public speech or performance.

(3) SHOUTING OR MAKING OTHER VOCALIZATIONS, PROJECTING AMPLIFIED SOUND, OR CREATING OTHER LOUD AND RAUCOUS NOISE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 10:00 P.M. THAT IS:

(a) AUDIBLE AT A LEVEL THAT IMPAIRS NORMAL CONVERSATION AT A DISTANCE OF MORE THAN 50 FEET IF GENERATED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, INCLUDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTENDED FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;

(b) AUDIBLE AT A LEVEL THAT IMPAIRS NORMAL CONVERSATION AT A DISTANCE OF MORE THAN 25 FEET IF GENERATED ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, INCLUDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY INTENDED FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, AND CONTINUING FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES; OR

(c) INTENDED TO INTERFERE OR GENERATED IN A MANNER THAT DOES INTERFERE WITH THE LAWFULLY-EXERCISED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF ANY OTHER PERSON OR PERSON(S) IN PROGRESS OR ANTICIPATED DUE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT THEREFOR WHEN THE SOUND BEGINS.

~~(3)~~(4) Any other unreasonably loud, disturbing, continuous, irritating or unnecessary noise, whether emanating from a human, animal or mechanical source.

B. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION A(3)(a) AND SUBSECTION A(3)(b) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MAY SHOUT OR MAKE OTHER VOCALIZATIONS, PROJECT AMPLIFIED SOUND, OR CREATE OTHER LOUD NOISE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY IN CONNECTION WITH A PROPERLY PERMITTED PARADE OR EVENT, PROVIDED THAT THE NOISE DOES NOT EXCEED A LEVEL THAT IMPAIRS NORMAL CONVERSATION AT A DISTANCE OF 250 FEET FROM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY, IN THE CASE OF A PARADE, OR FROM THE BOUNDARY OF SPACE COVERED BY AN EVENT PERMIT.

~~B.C.~~ Noise generated by police, fire, emergency medical, or other governmental emergency personnel, or public utility workers, and noise generated by private persons for the purpose of protecting persons or property from injury or damage shall not be deemed to be in violation of this section.

THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SYKESVILLE THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025

UNDERLINED SMALL CAPS: Indicate language added to the existing law.

*** Asterisks: Indicate language contained in the existing law that remains unchanged and is not reproduced in the ordinance.

~~Strikethrough:~~ Indicates language deleted from the existing law.

ATTEST:

Kerry Kavaloski, Town Clerk

Stacy Link, Mayor

Anna Carter, Council President

Mark Dyer, Council Member

Al Grasley, Council Member

Elizabeth Guroff, Council Member

Leo Keenan, Council Member

Jeremiah Schofield, Council Member

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