



# Municipality of Anchorage

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*Mayor Mark Begich*

## Department of Health and Human Services

June 29, 2007

Richard Cattanach, Executive Director  
Associated General Contractors of Alaska  
8005 Schoon Street  
Anchorage, AK 99518-3045


Dear Mr. Cattanach,

As you are aware we have been working for some time to develop a noise ordinance that addresses the needs of the citizens as well as the businesses in Anchorage. This has proven most challenging as opinions are poles apart on this topic. We have researched numerous noise ordinances from other jurisdictions and spoken with several agencies from across the United States to assure that the proposal we submit is in line with current science and practices. We have also spoken with noise consultants and specialists, including Earl Mullins. In May Eric Zwerling from Rutgers University, a nationally renowned noise specialist came to Anchorage to train our staff and meet with the Municipal Manager and another local noise expert has reviewed the draft. Having considered all input, we are confident that the revised proposed changes to the ordinance are practical, science-based, enforceable and balance public health needs regarding community noise. Following is a summary of proposed updates:

1. The proposed definition for "construction" remains the same. Our legal counsel agrees that construction does not and is not intended to include manufacturing plants.
2. Initially proposed clarifications to construction on weekends and Sundays have been deleted.
3. Property line measurements have been clarified to be Lmax. We expect that this was the intent of the original code writers. Also our research and experience enforcing the noise ordinance clearly indicate that Lmax is the most practical and preferred method for measuring and enforcing code provisions related to community noise.
4. Table 1 was changed to an emitter-receiver model rather than the existing receiver-only model.
5. Table 1 was modified to an emitter-receiver model that addresses the issue of noise between differing land uses in a clear and equitable manner.
6. The arithmetic mean provision (15.70.080.B) and the limit of 5dB increase/decrease in noise in an area (15.70.080.E proposed) have been deleted.

There are other changes considered minor. We welcome comments from you and your colleagues on the revised proposal. Please contact me at 343-6718 or Chris Tofteberg at 343-4725.

Sincerely,

  
Beverly K. Wooley  
Director

*Community, Security, Prosperity*