

NOISE ABATEMENT IN PARKVIEW - SUMMARY AGM MAY 2010

1. Situation. The local authority (Jo'burg City Council - JMPD) is responsible for noise abatement and by-law enforcement. They should dispatch officers to the scene- serious incidents elsewhere clearly have priority. The investigation may include a noise inspector to check the noise source and determine whether it constitutes a 'noise nuisance' or a "disturbing noise" in terms of the relevant regulations. Thereafter criminal prosecution will follow if the offender ignores any notice to stop.

2. Aim. This document is aimed at informing the PRA about noise abatement. The following definitions apply:

"disturbing noise" means a noise level that causes the ambient noise level to rise above the designated zone level and regulation for that activity.

"noise nuisance" means any sound which disturbs or impairs or may disturb or impair the convenience or peace of any person.

3. Existing Legislation. NOISE CONTROL REGULATIONS - GAUTENG (GenN 5479 in PG 75 of 20 August 1999) published by provincial government details existing regulations. These prohibit all sorts of noise sources including; people, animals, devices or apparatus, musical instruments, loudspeakers, fireworks, vehicles, construction activity, explosives, firearms, hooters, machinery, power tools and so on.

4. Additional Legislation. Provincial Legislation refers to:

a. Neighbourhood Noise Watch Committees may be established by a local authority, any group of individuals, or an organisation after it has complied with certain procedural requirements.

b. A Neighbourhood Noise Watch Committee may give written notice to any owner or occupier telling them to rectify a noise contravention within 14 days. If the owner or occupier concerned fails to comply, a member of the Committee or any owner or occupier in the neighbourhood may act as complainant in criminal proceedings against the offender.

5. Residential Noise / Zoo Lake Noise. Noise should be reported by those affected at the time of the alleged occurrence.

6. Reporting. Point of Contact JMPD 24 HR – 011 375 5911 / 011 375 5555

7. Recording. Those residents who are affected should notify the JMPD at the time of the alleged incident and record the date, time, details and the JMPD case number or reference number. Recording by those most affected will be of assistance in identifying the habitual offenders. Should a group of residents wish they may establish a Neighbourhood Noise Watch Committee as envisaged in paragraph 4.

8. PRA's Website. The PRA website has been updated to reflect the information given above and lists additional points of contact with regard to Zoo Lake. A noise recording sheet is available from the website to facilitate paragraph 7.