



Overview of Noise Permitting & Parking Enforcement

Administration & Regulatory Affairs Department

November 2, 2020





Noise and Sound Level Regulation



- Noise and Sound Regulation is governed by Ch.30 of the Municipal Code

- Residential Property
 - 65 dB(A) during daytime hours (8:00 am – 10:00 pm)
 - 58 dB(A) during nighttime hours (10:01 pm – 7:59 am)

- Nonresidential Property
 - 68 dB(A) at all times

- The City issues permits for the use of sound amplification equipment amplifying sound to 75 dB(A) during specific periods

- Permits are issued by the Administration & Regulatory Affairs Dept.

- Enforcement is performed by the Houston Police Department



Noise and Sound Level Regulation



- Plainly Audible when describing a sound or noise:
 - Any amplified sound or noise that can be clearly heard by the person with normal hearing facilities that a reasonable person would believe such sound or noise unreasonably disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others.
- Sound Nuisance:
 - Any sound that either exceeds the maximum permitted sound levels or for noisy animals and birds, noisy vehicles and amplified sound in vehicles otherwise unreasonably disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others.
- General Prohibitions:
 - It is unlawful for any person to make or permit the continuance of any loud, unnecessary, unusual sound or noise that disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others



Permits for Sound Amplification Equipment



- Three types of sound amplification permits
 - Daily Permits:
 - Valid for an authorized date and times between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.
 - Requires payment of the fee stated in the fee schedule of \$35.56
 - Extended Daily Permits:
 - Valid for the authorized dates and times between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. (not to exceed five consecutive days)
 - Requires payment of the fee stated in the fee schedule of \$71.14(+Admin Fee: \$29.64)
 - Annual Permits:
 - Valid for the 14-hour period between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday – Thursday; and the 15-hour period between the hours of 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday
 - Requires payment of the fee stated in the fee schedule of \$1,285.78 (+Admin Fee: \$29.64)



Permits for Sound Amplification Equipment

- Sound Permits Issued
 - FY2020 (due to the stay home, work safe initiative and COVID, the numbers for FY2020 were lower)
 - Daily – 678
 - Extended Daily – 63
 - Annual – 39

 - FY2019
 - Daily – 1,132
 - Extended Daily – 122
 - Annual – 47

 - FY2018
 - Daily – 1,024
 - Extended Daily – 110
 - Annual - 40



ParkHouston

- Oversight of about 10,000 paid parking spaces
- Maintain and monitor 900+ parking pay stations
- Enforce City and State parking regulations
- Oversight of various permits
- Volunteer ADA Enforcement Program
- Community Outreach program
- Accredited Parking Organization with Distinction (2015)





ParkHouston

How does ParkHouston address the challenges brought by a robust nighttime economy?

- Enforce parking regulations
- Administer Residential Parking Permit program
- Community Parking Program
- Administer Valet permits
- Manage pick up/drop off zones





Parking Compliance

Common parking violations:

- Parked too close to the intersection
Parked on the wrong side of the road
- Parked in a permit only zone
- Parked too close to a fire hydrant
- Tow vehicles from RPP zones

	Pre-Covid Average Citations per Month	Post-Covid Average Citations per Month
Citywide	16,010	12,369
Washington Corridor	373	284





Valet Services

Valet Operations

- Valet operations completely on private property does not require a permit
- Valet operators may legally park cars on the public street outside the CBD

Valet Zone

- Applicant is the establishment
- For pick up/drop off only
- Approved by Houston Public Works
- Must use operator permitted by ParkHouston
- Application has parking plan and insurance requirements
- Houston Police Department authorized to shut down unpermitted operations





Residential Parking Permits

- Residents must submit application and petition
- Parking Compliance Officers authorized to tow from RPP areas per State Code
- RPP areas can only be established adjacent to residential property
- RPP areas: Montrose/Westheimer; Midtown; Washington Corridor; Old Sixth Ward.





ParkHouston

www.HoustonParking.org

parking@houstontx.gov

832.393.8690 or 311

Hours of Operation

Monday	7 AM – 10 PM
Tuesday	7 AM – 11 PM
Wednesday	7 AM – 11 PM
Thursday	7 AM – 12 AM
Friday	7 AM – 2 AM
Saturday	8 AM – 2 AM
Sunday	12 PM – 9 PM





Questions?