

Dear Chief: Are there laws or ordinances in the City of Alamosa that apply to loud stereos and loud vehicles?

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Excellent question; thank you for the opportunity to address this as we enter into the summer months when people are outside listening to music, working on cars, and driving through our neighborhoods. There are two Municipal Ordinances that pertain to unreasonable noise.

1. City of Alamosa, Section 14-71, Unreasonable noise prohibited

Unreasonable noise is defined as any sound of such level and duration as to be or tend to be injurious to human health or welfare, or which would unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property. In short, if you are having a party, playing your stereo loud, or unnecessarily sounding your car horn and the noise you have created keeps another person/s from the enjoyment of their life/property you could be cited, ordered to appear in court, and a fine could be imposed if you are found guilty.

Fortunately, we don't receive too many complaints in Alamosa but when we do the police officer is most likely acting on a citizen complaint and the officer is empowered to determine whether in-fact the noise is unreasonable. Determination is usually based on things such as time of day, size of gathering of persons creating or contributing to the noise, presence or absence of noise amplification equipment, and other factors tending to show the magnitude and/or disruptive effect of the noise.

With regard to motor vehicles, the continuous sounding of any horn or signal device of a motor vehicle, except as a danger signal or the operation of any motor vehicle in a manner which causes excessive noise as a result of an unlawful, defective or modified exhaust system, or as a result of unnecessary rapid acceleration, deceleration, revving the engine, or squealing of tires all can be construed as unreasonable noise and can be cited under this ordinance.

2. City of Alamosa, Section 11-43, Disorderly Conduct prohibited

Within this ordinance, if a person/s make a noise that is unreasonable, by nature of content, volume, repetitiveness, hours of day or night, in a manner which disturbs or unreasonably threatens to disturb the peace of a person in a public place or of a person on private property where the perpetrator has no right to be, he/she can be cited for Disorderly Conduct, ordered to appear in court, and if found guilty can be fined.

As stewards of our community, the Alamosa Police Department requests that we all be considerate of each other and those who are negatively impacted by unreasonable noise. For those who are less tolerant of noise, this is a quality of life issue that we have the means to and will address.

Thanks for being a good neighbor!

Craig Dodd, Chief of Police