

# The Impact of Sound in Scottsdale

Community Input Sessions | November 2023

Presenter's information



# Problem Statement

There is a concern among some residents and businesses that current sound levels are too loud at times from outdoor amplification from some bars, restaurants, live entertainment venues, and special events.

City regulations to address problems from noise are different depending on the location of the issue and do not account for all types of disruptive sound. This conundrum adds to the confusion for some residents and businesses.



# Goal

To maintain and improve quality of life within Scottsdale, look at possible ordinance changes and other mitigation methods that would provide a mechanism for setting reasonable sound standards, including for bass frequencies, and provide guidance for sound management related to outdoor amplification at bars, restaurants, live entertainment venues, and special events.



# The current ordinance



## Definition

Unreasonable noise created by businesses that serve alcohol or provide live entertainment prohibited

The ordinance also includes:

- Criteria for measurement of sound

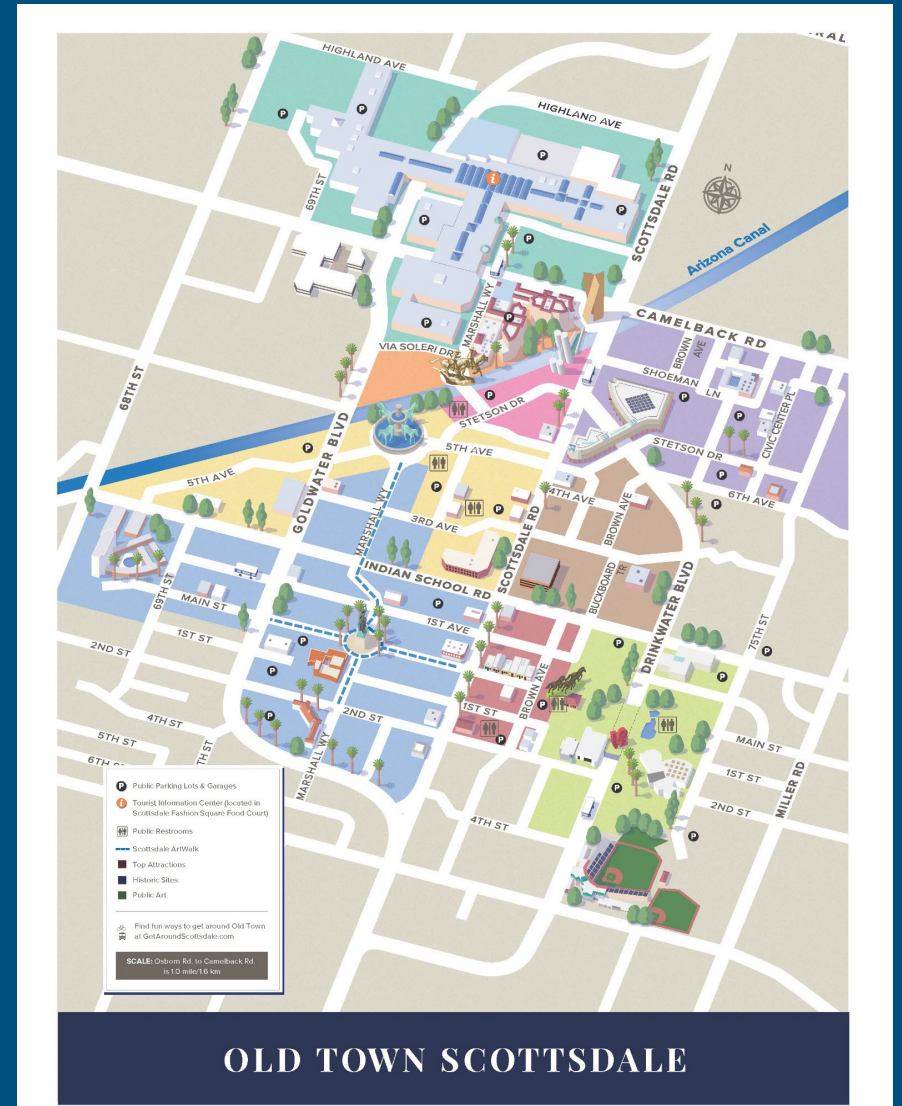
- Penalties for violations and habitual offenders

- Authority to issue civil complaints



# Current ordinance challenges

- What is considered “unreasonable”
- Special events are exempt
- Does not apply within commercial and mixed-use districts, including Old Town neighborhoods
- Does not address sound from bass frequencies



# Why is this such a challenging issue?

The science of sound is complicated!

Decibel levels



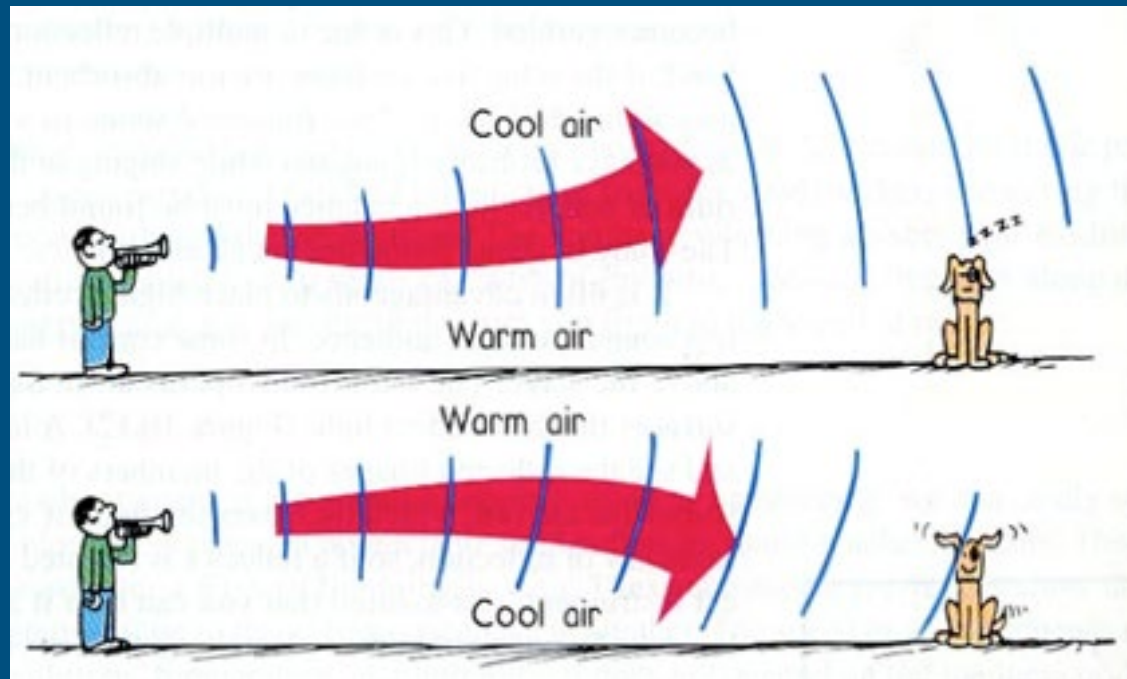
120 dB

10 dB



# Why is this such a challenging issue?

Sound interacts with the environment

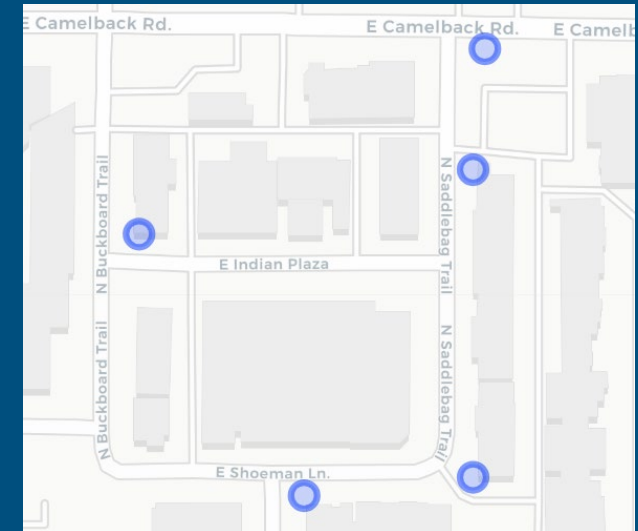




# Why is this such a challenging issue?

Gathering data from:

- Sensors
- Citizen complaints
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Sound experts



# Who have we spoken with?

Residents  
Businesses  
Nightclubs/bars  
Hotels  
Special Event producers  
Sound Industry  
professionals

Concerns

History  
with the  
City

Who  
should be  
involved



# What did we learn from the interviews?

## Perceptions

- Owners & Managers

- Residents

## Considerations

- Entertainment area vs Residential neighborhoods

- Timeframe: day, time, season

- Type of event or establishment

- Architecture

- Other cities



# What did we learn from the interviews?

## Amplified Sound

Decibel levels

Vibe of the area

Timeframe / Location

## Special events

Nightclubs vs special events

Timeframes

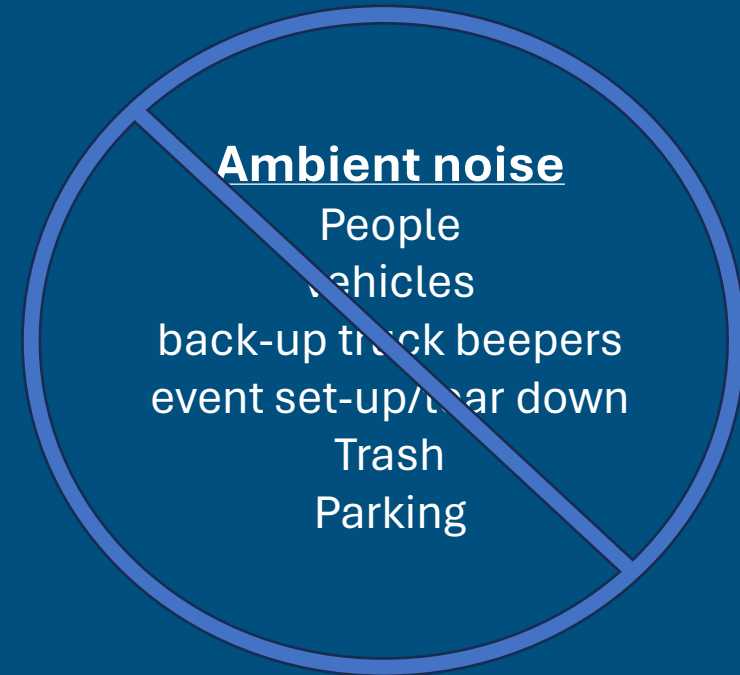
Notifications

## Enforcement

Fair, reasonable

Enforceable

Correct source is targeted



# Next Steps

January 2024

Presentation to City Council

Spring 2024

Public outreach on proposed changes

Stay up to date

[ScottsdaleAZ.gov](https://scottsdaleaz.gov), search Noise

