

CITY OF RICHMOND HILL  
STATE OF GEORGIA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 34 - ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE I. NOISE REGULATION, SECTION 34-4 – RESTRICTED USES AND ACTIVITIES; AND ARTICLE II. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT, SECTION 34-32 – DEFINITIONS AND SECTION 34-34 – UNLAWFUL PROPERTY NUISANCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FOR TIME PERIOD THRESHOLDS FOR RESTRICTED USES AND ACTIVITIES; TO DEFINE “UNREASONABLE PERIOD”; TO SPECIFY THE PROVISIONS OF THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AS UNLAWFUL PROPERTY NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Section 1. It is hereby ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Richmond Hill that Code of Ordinances of The City of Richmond Hill, Georgia, **Chapter 34 - Environment, Article I. Noise Regulation, Section 34-4 – Restricted Uses and Activities; and Article II. Community Preservation and Improvement, Section 34-32 – Definitions and Section 34-34 – Unlawful Property Nuisance**” be amended by removal in its entirety and replacement with the following:

Sec. 34-4. - Restricted uses and activities.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 34-2(a) and the exceptions above, the following standards shall apply to the activities or sources of sound set forth below:

- (1) Noncommercial or nonindustrial power tools used for landscaping and yard maintenance shall not be operated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., unless such activities can meet the applicable limits set forth in section 34-2(a). At all other times, the limits set forth in section 34-2(a) do not apply to noncommercial or non-industrial power tools and landscaping and yard maintenance equipment, provided that all motorized equipment is operated with a functioning muffler.
- (2) Commercial or industrial power tools used for landscaping and yard maintenance shall be operated with a muffler. All motorized equipment used in these activities shall not be operated on a residential property or within 250 feet of a residential property line, between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends, unless:
  - a. Such activities are deemed emergency work, or
  - b. Such activities meet the limits set forth in section 34-2(a).

At all other times, the limits set forth in section 34-2(a) do not apply to commercial or industrial power tools and landscaping and yard maintenance equipment.

- (3) Construction, including concrete plant operations within 1000 feet of a residential development, and demolition activity shall not be performed between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends, unless:



- a. Such activities are deemed emergency work; or
- b. Such activities meet the limits set forth in section 34-29(a).

This provision shall not apply if the noise control administrator determines that the loss or inconvenience that would result to any party in interest is of such a nature as to warrant special consideration. In such cases, the noise control administrator may grant a renewable permit for a period not to exceed ten days for this work to be done within the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

- (4) Domesticated animals may not make any vocalizations (including barking, baying, howling, crying, or making any other noise) for more than ten minutes without interruption or more than 30 minutes if intermittent.
- (5) Personal or commercial vehicular music amplification or reproduction equipment, including, but not limited to boom cars, shall not be operated in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet in any direction from the equipment between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. Between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. such equipment shall not be operated in such a manner that it is plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet in any direction.
- (6) Boom boxes, or any similar device, shall not be operated in a public place or public right-of-way in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet in any direction from the operator between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., such equipment shall not be operated in such a manner that it is plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet in any direction.

#### Sec. 34-32. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Building means any structure used or intended to be used for the purpose of supporting any use or sheltering any occupancy. The word "building" also covers all places of business.

Building official means the building inspector of the city or his designees.

Code enforcement officer means the officer to enforce city codes.

Owner means any person owning property, as shown on the last equalized assessment roll for city taxes, and also includes the lessee, tenant or other person having control or possession of the property unless otherwise specified.

Property means all real property, including but not limited to front yards, side yards, back yards, driveways, walkways and sidewalks, and shall include any building located on such property. The word "property" also covers places of business and their surrounding property, including closed businesses, and empty lots adjacent to other businesses and residences.

Stagnant water means without motion or current; not flowing or moving; foul from lack of movement.

Unreasonable period means a period of time exceeding 30 days. For unmowed lawns, "unreasonable period" means a period of time exceeding 14 days. If in the opinion of the city official, the unlawful property nuisance is an emergency public safety issue, "unreasonable period" is any time period that the city official deems necessary, depending on the severity of the situation.



Sec. 34-34. - Unlawful property nuisance.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, leasing, renting, occupying or having charge or possession of any property in the city to maintain such property or to allow such property to be maintained in such manner that any of the following conditions are found to exist thereon, except as may be allowed by this Code or by other city regulations:

- (1) The exterior accumulation of dirt, litter or debris on the property;
- (2) Clotheslines or clothes hanging in front yards, side yards, porches, or balconies, however, clotheslines and clothes hanging in rear yards are permitted;
- (3) Trash, garbage or refuse cans, bins, boxes or other such containers stored in front yards for an unreasonable period;
- (4) Packing boxes, lumber, junk, trash, salvage materials, or other debris kept on property for an unreasonable period;
- (5) Attractive nuisances dangerous to children, including abandoned, broken or neglected equipment, machinery, refrigerators and freezers, hazardous pools, ponds and excavations;
- (6) Broken or discarded furniture, household equipment and furnishings or shopping carts stored on the exterior of the property for an unreasonable period;
- (7) Overgrown vegetation likely to harbor rats, vermin and other nuisances causing detriment to neighboring properties or property values or obstructing necessary view of drivers on public streets or private driveways;
- (8) Dead, decayed, diseased or hazardous trees, weeds, unmowed lawns, or other vegetation constituting an unsightly appearance, danger to public safety and welfare, or detriment to neighboring properties or property values;
- (9) Graffiti or other words, letters or drawings that remain on the exterior of any building or fence for an unreasonable period and are visible from a public street;
- (10) Boats, trailers, vehicles or vehicle parts, or other articles of personal property located on the property in violation of section 34-33 or are abandoned or left in a state of partial construction or repair for an unreasonable period of time in the designated parking area of the front yard, back yard, side yard, driveway or sidewalk;
- (11) Camper shells left for an unreasonable period of time in the front yard, driveway, side yard or walkway and are visible from a public street; and
- (12) Buildings abandoned, boarded up, partially destroyed, or left in a state of partial construction for an unreasonable period of time and such buildings that are unpainted or where the paint on the building exterior is mostly worn off.
- (13) Any enclosure for the intended purpose of containing, controlling, kenneling, or housing any animal shall be placed in the rear of the property. This location should be out of public view.
- (14) All uncovered swimming pools containing water will be kept clean, free of debris, and properly filtered. The pool will not hold stagnant water.
- (15) Basketball goals will not be positioned on any city street or right-of-way.
- (16) Provisions listed in the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinance in conflict with this ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

SO ORDAINED, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk