

MEMORANDUM

To: Ordinance Review Committee
From: Joel Greenwood
Subject: Barking Dogs Ordinance
Date: January 6, 2023

The Ordinance Review Committee is asking to review the thresholds for triggering a nuisance of barking dogs.

Currently the regulation reads:

“Section 1762. Barking Dogs.

1762.1 Excessive Barking – Any owner or person having custody of a dog or dogs within the City shall not permit the dog or dogs to create a nuisance by continued or repeated barking, howling, yelping or making the other loud or unusual noises. A dog or dogs that bark, howl, yelp or otherwise create a loud or unusual noise for a sustained period of one (1) hour or intermittently for three (3) hours that can be heard beyond the property line of the property on which the dog(s) is located has created a nuisance and the owner or person having custody of the dog(s) is in violation of this section.”

The Board might consider changes to the time periods. One hour of sustained barking is a lot and after research into other such regulations 15-20 minutes of sustained barking seems to be the norm. Subsequently the intermittent timeframe could be reduced to 1 or 2 hours.

The other option might be to remove the time component completely and leave it at the discretion of the investigating officer of the City. Many communities define excessive barking without the time component.