

Being a Good Neighbor – Resources and Information

Please use these resources to be a good neighbor and improve the quality of life for everyone in the City. They can help address issues such as loud parties, walk-by noise, crime, trash, etc.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Establish respectful relationships with your neighbors to prevent problems and help resolve issues. Consider exchanging contact information.

BURLINGTON'S RULES AROUND NOISE AND PARTIES

The noise control ordinance is intended to allow city residents to peacefully coexist in a way that is respectful of one another.

To report noise in your neighborhood, call the Burlington Police Department at 658-2704

- Calling to report an incident helps create a record of where problems are occurring and allows resources to be directed there.
 - Problem properties – defined by repeated calls for service to the police department or Code Enforcement – will be visited by the appropriate representative(s) from the police department, Code Enforcement, Champlain College, or the University.
- You can choose whether or not you will meet the police officer who responds to your call about an incident.
- Another option is to make a sworn statement about an incident; this can result in a noise (or other) violation after you provide information to an officer. If the violation is contested, the complainant's testimony in court is necessary for the violation to be upheld.
- **The noise ordinance applies 24 hours a day.** The city also has "quiet hours" from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am.
- **Unreasonable noise is prohibited.** Noise is unreasonable when it is unreasonably loud given the time, place, and nature of the noise. Noise that is plainly audible between apartments or houses between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am is considered unreasonable.
- **Be considerate of neighbors who may be trying to sleep** – talking with friends on your porch at night might be enough to keep them awake. Sound systems, TVs, and radios cannot be played in an unreasonably loud manner.
- **Avoid fines for parties and noise.** Noise from parties and social gatherings has special regulations. Such gatherings are defined as situations where one or more participants are not residents. In the event of a noise disturbance, all of the residents at a premise are considered liable in addition to any other person engaged in making noise.

Party/Social Noise Fine

- First violation: \$300 for an uncontested ticket
- Second violation: \$400 for an uncontested ticket
- Subsequent violations: Criminal offense and \$500

General Noise Fines

- First violation: \$200 for an uncontested ticket
- Second violation: \$300 for an uncontested ticket
- Subsequent violations: Criminal offense and \$500

- **For more information** on neighborhood noise, fines, ways to reduce fines, and how to host a respectful party, visit the **Community Justice Center**: <http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CJC/Neighborhood-Noise>

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CRIME, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

- www.pjburlington.org/

HAVE A RENTAL PROPERTY QUESTION OR CONCERN? CONTACT THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

- www.burlingtonvt.gov/CodeEnforcement

USE SEE-CLICK-FIX TO REPORT TRASH, ILLEGAL PARKING, DAMAGE TO SIDEWALKS AND ROADS, AND OTHER ISSUES

- www.seeclickfix.com

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS CAN HELP WITH ISSUES RELATED TO UVM STUDENT RENTERS

- www.uvm.edu/~oscr