

[--Our--] Street has always been one of San Luis Obispo's nicest neighborhoods in which to live. Note that many of the permanent residents have lived here long before you were born! We intend to maintain the quality of life we have always enjoyed. This letter will help acquaint you with life in our neighborhood.

What you see below is probably no different from the behavior your parents expected of you in the neighborhood you and your folks call home. The below items are based on respect and common courtesy and are enforced by the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

1. **Parties. This neighborhood has a zero tolerance for nighttime party noise.** The police will be called without hesitation to enforce the city's noise ordinance and maintain peace and quiet at night. This means any noise from your property, inside or outside, that crosses the property line at night that we can hear on our properties violates the City Noise Ordinance, is disrespectful of your neighbors and will result in police visits and fines for you. Do not ask us to call you or come to your door if you are too loud. You are adults and can monitor your own behavior. Failure to do so will result in the police at your door and citations and fines for you and your landlord.

2. **Backyard Noise.** This is a simple common courtesy issue but seems hard for students to understand. Sound travels far and wide in the quiet of the night. It doesn't take an "active party" to keep your neighbors awake at night. Just a few people hanging out in the backyard conversing, laughing and the occasional shout can make it impossible for us to sleep. The simple solution is to realize that if it's after 10:00 P.M., your neighbors have gone to bed and are trying to sleep (and the City Noise Ordinance is in effect), so keep all socializing inside at night. A \$350 fine is a hard way to learn this common courtesy issue.

3. **Front Yard Noise.** Please show common courtesy to your neighbors and respect to the neighborhood with your front yard nighttime activity. Loud talking and shouting, talking on cell phones outside, honking of horns upon arrival or departure, idling engines, and shouting from the car to the house are all disruptive to the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. You have chosen to live in a family neighborhood; please show it respect. And please instruct your guests to do the same while coming and going from your property, particularly while walking or driving through the neighborhood at night.

4. **Garage Noise.** Beer pong and partying in the garage are an automatic police call.

5. **General Noise.** Keep in mind that music and voices do carry out through open windows and open doors. Close them to keep noise inside. **FACT: Noise that crosses a property line after 10:00 P.M. violates the Noise Ordinance and the police can and will be called for enforcement.**

6. **Parking.** [--Our--] Street is within the College Highlands Parking District, and only two cars with permits per residence can be parked on the street after 10:00 P.M. Tickets are \$38. *Additionally the police will be summoned to write tickets on cars without permits associated with houses with nighttime noise.* Note that it is illegal to park any portion of a vehicle anywhere except on the legally paved driveway area. It is illegal to block a sidewalk with a vehicle, park partway in a driveway and part in the street or park in any manner other than parallel to the curb in the direction of traffic. These are City parking ordinances and they are enforced on [--Our--] Street.

San Luis Obispo Neighborhood Enhancement Ordinances

The City Noise Ordinance is 24 hours a day!

San Luis Obispo Municipal Code
Title 9 PUBLIC PEACE, MORALS AND WELFARE
Chapter 9.12 Noise Control
9.12.050 PROHIBITED ACTS.

A. Noise Disturbances Prohibited. 24 hours – Any noise disturbance plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet from the noisemaker and across a property line.

B. Specific Prohibitions. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. any noise disturbance across a residential property line.

Fine schedule: The first visit by police or SNAP can result in a **DAC** (Disturbance Advisory Card). The property owner also receives notice that the property has been placed on a police problem-premise list. The second visit will be by police, not SNAP, and can result in a citation and fine of **\$350**. The property owner also receives the same fine of \$350. The next police visit is **\$700**, and the next is a **\$1,000** fine. **All fines are actually double those amounts because they are also levied against the landlord, who will likely pass back to you the tenant.**

Other city ordinances related to maintaining quality of life in neighborhoods include:

- Trash Container Ordinance that mandates that trash containers be removed from the street and stored beyond the front yard within 12 hours of trash collection.
- The Social Host Ordinance which can result in a \$350 to \$1,000 fine if just one person under the age of 21 in attendance drinks alcohol.
- The Unruly Gathering Ordinance which allows for fines of \$700 for *each* host for parties on private property with more than 20 guests involving unlawful conduct (excessive noise, drunkenness, crowds on yards, etc.). Don't expect a warning (DAC) if you violate this ordinance.
- Driveway Standards and Front Yard Parking Ordinances that prohibit parking anywhere but on the driveway that leads to the garage. This means that it is illegal to park on lawns, gravel areas, dirt areas and even paved areas that do not lead to the garage.

The bottom line: You have chosen to live in a family neighborhood. Understand that social activity that takes place after 10:00 P.M. runs counter to and is disruptive to the way of life of this family neighborhood. Please make an effort to conduct yourselves (and instruct your guests to conduct themselves) with respect to the permanent residents of [-Our-] Street. Failure to grasp this simple concept will result in the police at your door and steep fines for you and your landlord.