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Planning Commission – City of Florence
250 Highway 101
Florence, Oregon 97439

Re: Noise Ordinances

My purpose in writing to you is to bring to your attention an area where City Ordinances fail to adequately protect homeowners.

My wife and I have owned and lived in our home here at 1950 W Park Drive, Florence for 20 years. We have been so fortunate to enjoy the peaceful serenity here living on the Munsel Creek Greenway. We can even enjoy the sound of the ocean from our open bedroom window at night. That's why we bought this particular home.

Last Fall, our new next door neighbor installed a heat pump on his property 17 feet from our bedroom window. For several months our peace was destroyed by the noise of a loud, whining machine that fired up every 15 minutes and ran 5 to 8 minutes on and off all night, obliterating our quiet enjoyment of our home and especially our sleep. We had to move our bedroom to a bedroom on the other side of our home.

I measured the noise level with a professional Sound Level Meter and the noise level was 70.2 db at the source, 58.8 db at the property line and 53.8 db inside our bedroom, window closed. Our neighbor refused to mitigate the sound levels of his heat pump compressor. I appealed to Florence Code Enforcement where I was told the heat pump was installed with City of Florence approval and permits, but because of the noise levels, the City would require my neighbor to mitigate the sound level to 50 db. That's the sound level of a compact car motor running outside our window, on and off all night and all day long!

We eventually resolved this situation ourselves with the offer of money and our neighbor finally kindly agreeing to move his heat pump compressor to the back of his house where it has no impact on the tranquility and value of our property and our nights' sleep.

We are hopeful that you as Planning Commissioners will initiate a review of the City's Residential Noise Ordinances to better protect other tax paying Florence homeowners from this kind of destruction of their property value and family's mental health since the City's Ordinances are obviously lacking in effectively protecting the peaceful, quiet enjoyment of our homes. Other cases like ours will no doubt arise.

Thank you for your time and service to our community,

Gary Armstrong