

**TOWN OF MINA**  
**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2026**  
**January 8, 2026**

**A LOCAL LAW TO PROHIBIT ALL UNREASONABLE NOISE FROM ALL SOURCES TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, AND THE PEACE, QUIET, COMFORT AND REPOSE OF ALL PERSONS WITHIN THE TOWN OF MINA**

**SECTION I. TITLE:**

This local law shall be known and shall be cited as the “Local Law to Prohibit Unreasonable Noise in the Town of Mina.”

**SECTION II. INTENT:**

The Mina Town Board determines that the creation of unreasonable noise within the Town limits of the Town of Mina is detrimental to the comfort, convenience, safety, health and welfare, and to the quality of life of the citizens of the Town. Therefore, it intends hereby to prohibit all unreasonable noise from all sources to preserve, protect and promote the health, safety and welfare, and the peace, quiet, comfort and repose of all persons within the Town.

**SECTION III. DEFINITIONS:**

The following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**AMBIENT NOISE LEVEL** – The sound-pressure level of the all-encompassing noise associated with a given environment, being usually a composite of sounds from many sources and/or the A-weighted sound-pressure level exceeded 90% of the time L90% based on a minimum period of 10 minutes.

**AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE** – Every ambulance, police vehicle, fire vehicle and civil defense emergency vehicle.

**A-WEIGHTED SOUND-PRESSURE LEVEL** – The sound-pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound-meter using the A-weighting network by a trained operator. The level so read is designated dB(a) or dBA.

**CONSTRUCTION** – Any activity necessary or incidental to the erection, demolition, assembling, altering, installing or equipping of buildings, public or private highways, roads, premises, parks, utility lines or other property, including but not limited to the related activity such as line clearing, grading, earth moving, excavating, blasting, filling and landscaping, but not including agriculture.

**DAYTIME** – The time from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

**DECIBEL (dB)** – The practical unit of measurement for sound-pressure level; the number of decibels of measured sound is equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base of 10 of the ratio of the sound pressure of the measured sound to the sound pressure of standard sound (20 micropascals); abbreviated dB.

**EMERGENCY** – A public calamity, utility services failure or an exposure of any person or property to actual imminent danger.

**IMPULSIVE SOUND** – A sound of short duration, usually less than one second and of high intensity, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay.

**MOTOR VEHICLE** – Every vehicle operated or driven upon the public highway which is propelled by any power other than muscular power, except electrically driven chairs for individuals with physical disabilities being operated or driven by individuals with physical disabilities, vehicles which run only upon rails or tracks and snowmobiles.

**MUFFLER** – A device consisting of a series of chambers or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from a sound source and effective in reducing noise.

**NIGHTTIME** – That part of a twenty-four-hour time interval which is not otherwise defined as daytime.

**NOISE DISTURBANCE** – Any sound which endangers or injures the safety or health of humans or animals or annoys or disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities or endangers or injures personal or real property.

**PERSON** – Includes the singular and plural and shall also mean and include an individual, association, partnership, business, corporation, club, society, union, lessor, lessee, landlord, tenant or any other form of association or organization.

**PROPERTY BEING USED FOR NONRESIDENTIAL PURPOSES** – Any property, including vacant land, which is not used for residential purposes, as defined herein.

**PROPERTY BEING USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES** – Property which contains one or more dwelling units, including but not limited to single-family attached or detached dwelling units, multiple dwellings, hotels, motels, short-term rentals, bed & breakfasts, senior citizen housing, adult residential care facilities, nursing homes, and dormitories.

**PUBLIC HIGHWAY** – Any highway, road, street, avenue, alley, public place, public driveway or any other public way.

**REAL PROPERTY BOUNDARY LINE** – The imaginary line, including its vertical extension, that separates one parcel of real property from another, or the vertical and horizontal boundaries of a dwelling unit located within a multiple-dwelling-unit building.

**SOUND LEVEL** – The quantity in decibels measured by a sound-level meter satisfying the requirements of American National Standards specification for sound-level meters. “Sound level” is the frequency-weighted sound pressure level obtained with the standardized dynamic characteristic “fast” or “slow” and weighting (a), (b) or (c); unless indicated otherwise, the A-weighting is understood.

**SOUND-LEVEL METER** – An instrument for the measurement of sound levels conforming to American National Standards Institute Type I or II standards.

**SOUND-REPRODUCTION DEVICES** – Any device, instrument, mechanism, equipment or apparatus for the amplification of any sounds from any radio, phonograph, tape player, compact disc player, musical instrument, television, loud speaker or other sound-making or sound-producing device, or any device or apparatus for the reproduction or amplification of the human voice or other sound.

**SOUND SIGNAL DEVICE** – Any device designed to produce a sound signal when operated, including but not limited to any claxon, air horn, whistle, bell, gong, or siren (but not an emergency signal device).

**STATIONARY NOISE SOURCE** – Any device, fixed or movable, which is located or used on geographically defined real property other than a public right-of-way.

**UNREASONABLE NOISE** – Any excessive or unusually loud sound or any sound which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of a reasonable person of normal sensitivities or which causes injury to animal life or damage to property or business. Standards to be considered in determining whether “unreasonable noise” exists in a given situation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The volume of the noise.
- The intensity of the noise.
- Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual.
- Whether the origin of the noise is usual or unusual.
- The volume and intensity of the background noise, if any.
- The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities.
- The nature and zoning district of the areas within which the noise emanates.
- The time of the day or night the noise occurs.
- The time duration of the noise.
- Whether the sound is temporary.
- Whether the noise is continuous or impulsive.

**ZONING DISTRICT** – The same meaning as provided by the Town of Mina Zoning Law.

#### **SECTION IV. UNREASONABLE NOISE PROHIBITED:**

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, cause to be made or permit to be made any unreasonable noise within the geographical boundaries of the Town of Mina.

#### **SECTION V. DETERMINATION OF UNREASONABLE NOISE:**

A determination as to the existence of unreasonable noise may be established by the specific acts enumerated in the section entitled Prohibited Acts.

#### **SECTION VI. PROHIBITED ACTS:**

The following acts and the causes thereof are declared to be in violation of this law:

- A. General Prohibitions: No person shall make, continue or cause or permit to be made, verbally or mechanically, any unreasonable noise. Noncommercial public speaking and public assembly activities conducted on any public space or public highway shall be exempt from the operation of this section, if approved by the Town of Mina.
- B. Animals: No person shall own, possess or harbor any animal or bird which frequently or for continued duration, makes sounds which create a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary. For the purpose of this local law, a "barking dog" may be defined as a dog that barks continuously for 10 minutes or intermittently for 30 minutes.
- C. Burglar Alarms: No owner of a building or of a motor vehicle shall have in operation an audible burglar alarm thereon unless such burglar alarm shall be capable of and shall automatically terminate its operation within five (5) minutes of its being activated.
- D. Sound Reproduction: No person shall operate, play or permit the operation or playing of any radio, television, phonograph, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces or amplifies sound:
  - a. Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day in such a manner as to create unreasonable noise across a real property boundary.
  - b. In such a manner as to create unreasonable noise at 50 feet from such a device, when operated in or on a motor vehicle on a public highway or in a boat in public waters.
  - c. In such a manner as to create unreasonable noise to any person other than the operator of the device, when operated by any passenger on a common carrier.
- E. Air-conditioning and Air-handling Devices:
  - a. No person shall operate or permit to be operated an air-conditioning or air-handling device, including a heat pump, that exceeds the minimum sound level limitations provided in this section: in residential areas, continuous sound levels measured at the property line of 55 dBA.
  - b. The provisions of this section shall not apply if the sound from the air conditioner or air-handling device produces less than an increase of five dBA in the sound level that exists in the absence of such sound.
- F. Emergency Warning Devices: No person shall operate or cause to be operated by emergency warning device, except:

- a. To give notice of a warning of an emergency
  - b. On an authorized emergency vehicle when such vehicle is engaged in emergency operation, provided that such device shall not be operated so as to create unreasonable noise or for a period of time longer than is necessary to respond to such emergency.
  - c. When such device is under test.
- G. Loading and Unloading: No person shall load, unload, open, close or handle boxes, crates, containers, building materials, garbage cans or similar objects between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day in such a manner as to cause an unreasonable noise across a residentially real property boundary, except as permitted by Section IX A-G.
- H. Domestic Power Tools: No person shall operate or permit to be operated by any power tool or equipment, including but not limited to saws, sanders, drills, grinders, lawn or garden tools, mowers, tractors, leaf blowers or gatherers, or similar devices, when used outdoors in a residentially zoned district during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., so as to create unreasonable noise.
- I. Modification of Noise Control Devices: No person shall operate or permit to be operated any device that has been modified so as to cause the sound emitted from such device to be greater than that emitted by such device as originally manufactured.
- J. Squealing Tires: No person shall operate a vehicle in such a manner as to cause unreasonable noise by spinning or squealing the tires of such vehicle.
- K. Sound Signal Devices: No person shall knowingly operate or cause to be operated any sound signal device so as to create unreasonable noise, except:
- a. As required by the Vehicle and Traffic Law of the State of New York.
  - b. To give notice of the time to start and stop work.
- L. Construction: No person shall conduct or permit to be conducted construction, alone or in combination with other construction conducted or permitted by such person, in a manner as to cause unreasonable noise during nighttime on weekdays or at anytime on Sundays or holidays. The provision of this section shall not apply to the following:
- a. Emergency work and safety and protective devices.
  - b. Domestic power tools subject to Section VI - H.
- M. Places of Public Entertainment: No person shall operate or permit to be operated a place of public entertainment, including but not limited to a restaurant, bar, café, discotheque or dance hall, in which the sound level is equal to or exceeds 95 dBA for more than 30 seconds at the location of the spectators.
- N. Churches, Courts and Schools: No person shall create or permit the creation of any unreasonable noise through the use of any device on any street, sidewalk or public place adjacent to any church, court or school while such church, court or school is in use, provided that signs are displayed so as to identify such church, court or school.
- O. Yelling and Uttering Obscenities: No person shall yell, shout, hoot, whistle, sing or utter obscenities upon the public streets so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or

repose of persons in any office or in any dwelling, or other type of residence or of any persons in the vicinity.

**SECTION VII. MAXIMUM SOUND LEVELS BY RECEIVING LAND USE CATEGORIES:**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or permit to be operated any stationary noise source in such a manner as to create a sound pressure level measured in dBA's which exceed the limits set forth for the receiving land use category in Table 1 below when measured at or within the property boundary of the receiving land use.

**Table 1  
Maximum Permissible Sound Levels by  
Receiving Land Use Category  
(dBA)**

Sound Source Land Use Category	Time Period	Receiving Land Use Category		
		Residential	Commercial	Agricultural
Residential	7:00 am to 10:00 pm	55	65	65
	10:00 pm to 7:00 am	50	65	65
Commercial	7:00 am to 10:00 pm	65	65	65
	10:00 pm to 7:00 am	50	65	65
Agricultural	7:00 am to 10:00 pm	65	65	65
	10:00 pm to 7:00 am	50	65	65

- B. The restrictions set forth in this section shall not apply to alarms as defined in Section VI – C and F.

**SECTION VIII. MOTOR VEHICLES ON PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY:**

No person shall operate a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles on a public right-of-way at any time in such a manner that the sound pressure level emitted by said vehicle exceeds the levels set forth in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

**SECTION IX. EXCEPTIONS:**

The requirements, prohibitions and terms of this local law shall not apply to:

- A. Any authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency.
- B. The operation of any vehicles or equipment when responding to an emergency or a declared state of emergency (i.e., civil defense, storm).
- C. The use or operation of vehicles and equipment owned by the Town of Mina while being used in the performance of the usual and customary duties by an employee of the Town.
- D. Those activities of a temporary duration permitted by law and for which a license or permit therefore has been granted by the Town of Mina, including but not limited to parades, fireworks displays and public cosponsored boat races and events.

- E. The production of music in connection with a military or civic parade or funeral procession; any musical performance conducted under consent of municipal authority.
- F. Sounds emanating from any publicly sponsored and/or authorized sporting, entertainment or other public event.
- G. Snow removal equipment
- H. Businesses that must conduct loading and unloading operations between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day.

#### **SECTION X. AUTHORITY TO GRANT EXCEPTIONS AND VARIANCES:**

The Mina Town Board or its duly authorized representative shall have the authority to grant special variances, issue temporary permits and suspend any of the provisions of this local law upon such conditions and for such time as it shall deem fit to best serve the public health and welfare and the quality of life in the Town of Mina.

#### **SECTION XI. ENFORCEMENT; STANDARDS:**

- A. The provisions of this local law shall be enforced by the Town of Mina Code Enforcement Officer, the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department or the New York State Police and they shall have the power to:
  - a. Order any person to cease and desist from any activity which causes or is conducted so as to cause a violation of any provision of this ordinance.
  - b. Seal any device, after obtaining the proper judicial order, which causes or is maintained or operated so as to cause a violation of any provision of this local law.
  - c. Issue appearance tickets for violation of any provision of this local law.
- B. A sound-level meter conforming to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Type II standards shall be used and shall be calibrated prior to use. The calibrator shall be calibrated at least annually.

#### **SECTION XII. PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES:**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this local law shall be deemed guilty of a violation and subject to a fine of not more than \$250 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed 15 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such.

#### **SECTION XIII. SEVERABILITY:**

If any provision of this local law is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of the local law shall not be invalidated.

#### **SECTION XIV. EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This local law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.