



HVAC Noise at 212 Tyler Disrupts Sleep and Appears to Exceed dBA Noise Limits

Joe Goschy

Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 7:00 AM

To: planning@santaclaraca.gov, building@santaclaraca.gov

Cc: YLara@santaclaraca.gov

Bcc: Michael Goschy <[REDACTED]>, Joe Goschy <[REDACTED]>

Hello,

Please forward this memo to the appropriate department or city representative.

The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit that was installed with the new construction at 212 Tyler Avenue is creating excessive noise during operation, particularly upon startup, and is affecting the sleep quality at the neighboring home (220 Tyler Ave).

The HVAC unit operates day and night. The most prominent noise is when the HVAC unit starts up. Please see the following attached audio file for an example: HVAC Startup 1.mp3.

The HVAC unit also creates a loud, pulsing sound when running, rather than the typical, smooth hum. Please see: HVAC Running.mp3. Note: It has sounded worse than this example on other occasions.

The decibel limits for noise are outlined in the city code chapter 9. Since the HVAC starts and stops both day and night, the Noise Level of 50 dBA may be considered the limit.

Chapter 9.10

REGULATION OF NOISE AND VIBRATION

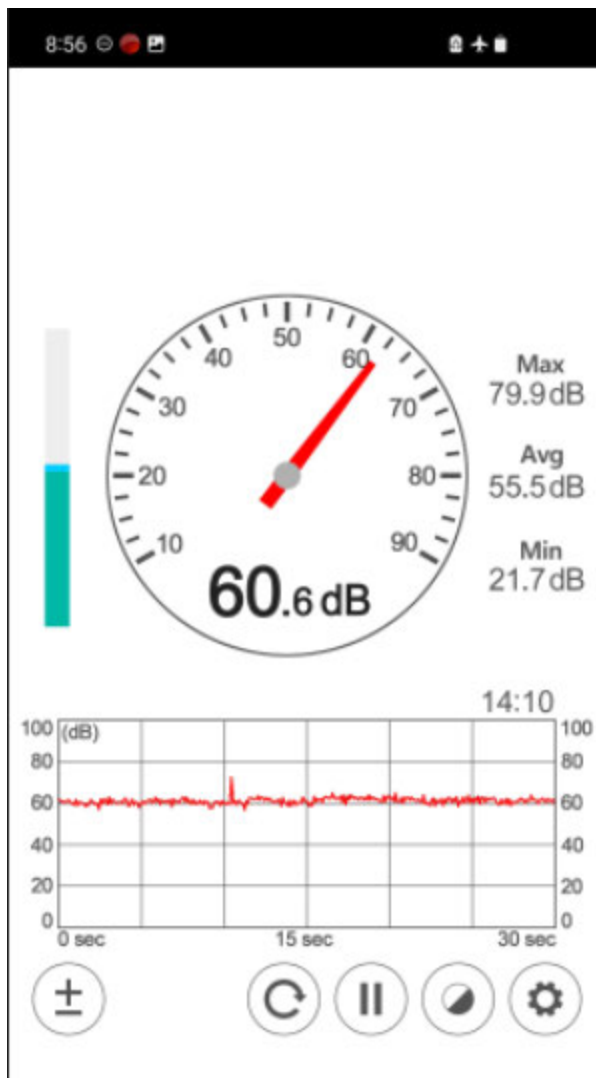
<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClara/html/SantaClara09/SantaClara0910.html#9.10.040>

9.10.040 Noise or sound regulation, Schedule A - Exterior Sound or Noise Limits:

Category 1		
Single-family and duplex residential (R1, R2)	Commencing at 7:00 A.M. and ending at 10:00 P.M. that evening	55
	Commencing at 10:00 P.M. and ending at 7:00 A.M. the following morning	50
Category 2		
Multiple-family residential, public space (R3, B)	Commencing at 7:00 A.M. and ending at 10:00 P.M. that evening	55
	Commencing at 10:00 P.M. and ending at 7:00 A.M. the following morning	50

Audio measurement samples were taken near the HVAC unit, but on 220 Tyler property.

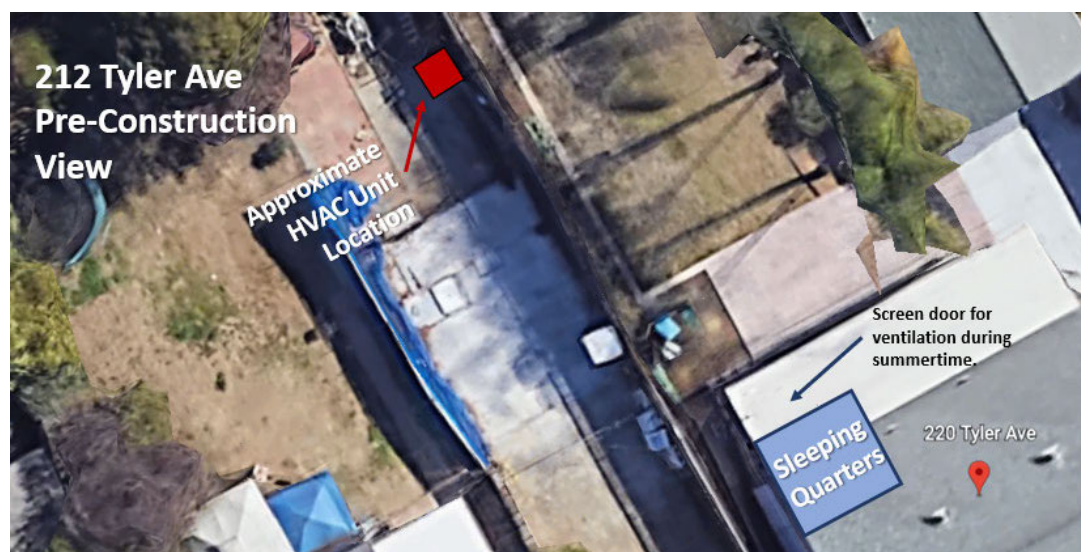
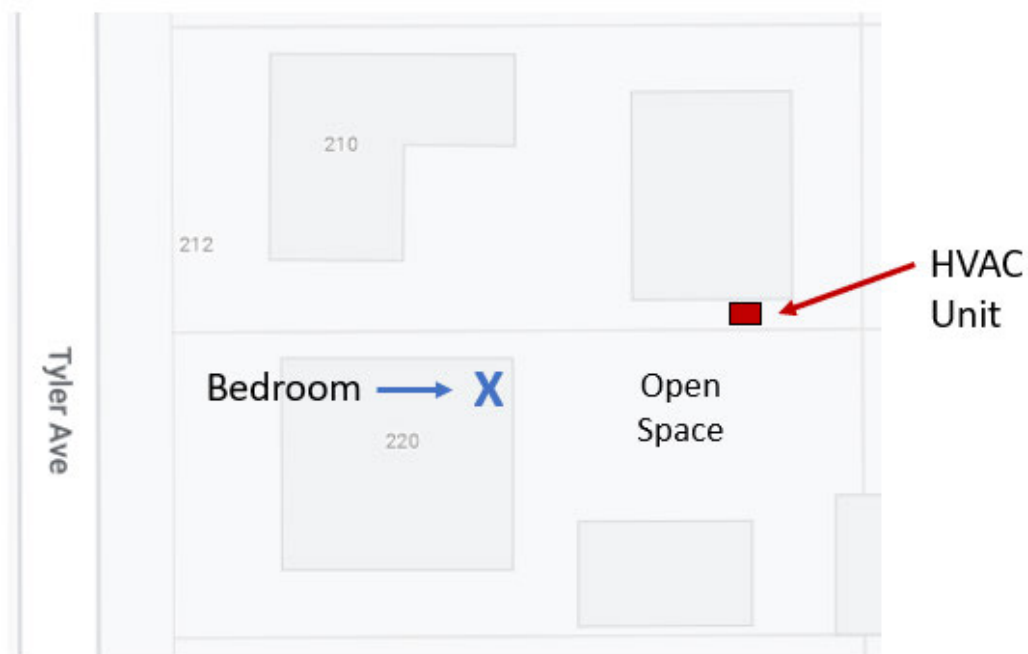
The readings during operation are above 50 dB when the unit was in operation, but significantly higher when the HVAC unit starts up with measurements between 70 to 80 dB.



The audio samples were taken in the early morning, so there was little ambient sound.

The city noise limits are defined by dBA levels, which are weighted according to the approximate the way the human ear hears. Assuming the peak levels of the HVAC unit are in the 70dB range upon startup, the unit noise would be beyond the 50 dBA limit.

Earplugs are used during the night because the HVAC startup can be heard with the windows closed. The HVAC unit noise will be more of a concern during the warmer weather when the windows and screen door are open because there is no air conditioning at 220 Tyler Ave.



Since the HVAC unit is new, it may be under warranty and easily repaired.

I would reach out to the property owners, but they have been unresponsive in the past and have failed to take action in other matters.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or if I can make myself available for someone to take audio samples or observe the noise at the source.

Thank you,
Joe Goschy
220 Tyler Avenue
[REDACTED]

2 attachments



HVAC Startup 1.mp3

267K



HVAC Running.mp3

650K