



Policy: Sound Guidelines for Central Park Plaza

Effective Date: April 29, 2025

Purpose: To establish clear guidelines for sound levels and management at Central Park Plaza to ensure a positive experience for event attendees and neighbors while minimizing noise impact on the surrounding community. This policy aims to balance vibrant events with responsible sound practices.

Applicability: This policy applies to all individuals, organizations, and entities renting or utilizing Central Park Plaza for events involving amplified sound, including but not limited to concerts, performances, and public gatherings.

Sound Level Regulations:

1. **Property Line Limit:** The sound level measured at the edge of the Central Park Plaza property line along Lincolnway shall not exceed ninety (90) decibels (dB) for more than seven (7) seconds.
2. **Sound Check Duration:** Sound checks for events shall be limited to a maximum duration of three (3) hours.
3. **Sound Check Timing:** Sound checks are permitted only after 1:00 PM on Mondays through Fridays. Sound checks on Saturdays and Sundays must be scheduled in advance with Valpo Parks staff and adhere to reasonable daytime hours.
4. **Sound Check Decibel Limit:** During sound checks, decibel levels shall not exceed one hundred (100) decibels (dB) at any point within the event area.
5. **Event End Times:** All events featuring amplified sound, including concerts, must conclude by:
 - 10:00 PM on Mondays through Saturdays.
 - 9:00 PM on Sundays.



6. **Speaker Angling and Volume:** All stage speakers shall be positioned and angled downwards to direct sound towards the audience and minimize spillover. The volume of the uppermost speakers should be adjusted downwards to further mitigate sound disturbance beyond the event area.
7. **Sound Monitoring:** Valpo Parks staff reserves the right to monitor decibel levels during sound checks and periodically throughout the event at their discretion to ensure compliance with this policy. Staff will utilize calibrated sound level meters for accurate measurements.

Penalties and Fines for Non-Compliance:

Failure to adhere to the sound guidelines outlined in this policy will result in the following penalties:

- **First Offense:** A fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- **Second Offense:** A fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
- **Third Offense:** A fine of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), plus a one (1) full event season ban from renting Central Park Plaza for events. The event season is defined as April through October.

Renters will incur a maximum of one (1) penalty per event for violations of this Sound Guidelines policy. Penalties are cumulative and do not reset. Following a third offense, associated fine payment, and the completion of the one (1) full event season ban, the renter will be subject to a zero-tolerance policy for any subsequent rental of Central Park Plaza.

Fine Payment and Reinstatement:

- Renters with outstanding fines must remit full payment of the previous fine(s) prior to their next scheduled event at Central Park Plaza.
- Following a third penalty and the completion of the one (1) full event season ban, the renter must pay all outstanding fines in full before being eligible to rent Central Park Plaza for events involving amplified sound.



Communication of Policy:

- Valpo Parks staff will provide all upcoming renters of Central Park Plaza with a copy of this Sound Guidelines policy prior to their event.
- This Sound Guidelines policy, including the schedule of penalties and fines, will be posted on the official Central Park Plaza website and will be included as an addendum to all Central Park Plaza rental agreements.

Enforcement:

Valpo Parks staff will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing this Sound Guidelines policy. Any disputes regarding sound levels or penalties will be reviewed by the Valpo Parks Director or their designee.

Amendments:

Valpo Parks reserves the right to amend or update this policy as deemed necessary to ensure the continued successful operation of Central Park Plaza and the well-being of the community. Renters will be notified of any significant changes to this policy.

By utilizing Central Park Plaza for events involving amplified sound, renters acknowledge and agree to comply with these Sound Guidelines.

Signed by:

Valpo Parks

Date Approved:

Signed by:

Venue Renter

Date Approved: