

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 126865  
**COUNCIL BILL** 120571

AN ORDINANCE relating to noise in industrial shorelines; amending Sections 25.08.100 and 25.08.410 of the Seattle Municipal Code to modify exterior sound limits for land in the Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing Industrial Center located within 200 feet of the shoreline.

WHEREAS, in 2019 the City convened an Industrial and Maritime Strategy Council to advise the City on development of an Industrial and Maritime Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the stakeholder committee consisted of a City-wide committee and four regional committees representing Georgetown/South Park, SODO, Interbay, and Ballard; and

WHEREAS, the principles that guided the Industry and Maritime Strategy Council focused on:

- Actions to strengthen racial equity and recovery;
- Using the power of local workers and companies to chart a blueprint for the future using the principles of restorative economics to support the cultural, economic, and political power of communities most impacted by economic and racial inequities;
- Strengthening and growing Seattle’s industrial and maritime sectors so communities that have been excluded from the prosperity of our region can benefit from our future growth;
- Promoting equitable access to high quality, family-wage jobs and entrepreneurship for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color through an inclusive industrial economy and ladders of economic opportunity;
- Improving the movement of people and goods to and within industrial zones and increasing safety for all travel modes;

- 1           •           Aligning Seattle’s industrial and maritime strategy with key climate and  
2           environmental protection goals; and
- 3           •           Developing a proactive land use policy agenda that harnesses growth and  
4           economic opportunities to ensure innovation and industrial jobs are a robust part of our  
5           future economy that is inclusive of emerging industries and supportive of diverse  
6           entrepreneurship; and

7 WHEREAS, in May 2021 the Industrial and Maritime Strategy Council issued a report  
8           recommending 11 strategies to advance the guiding principles of the Council; and

9 WHEREAS, land use issues are addressed in six of the 11 strategies; and

10 WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the  
11           City’s environmental polices set out in Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 23.50, the Office  
12           of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) issued a Determination of  
13           Significance and initiated a SEPA scoping period to seek public comment on four distinct  
14           land use alternatives each based on a new industrial land policy framework reflective of  
15           the Strategy Council’s recommendations and received one-hundred and five comments;  
16           and

17 WHEREAS, on December 15, 2021 the Office of Planning and Community Development  
18           (OPCD) issued the Industrial and Maritime Strategy Draft Environmental Impact  
19           Statement; and

20 WHEREAS, OPCD held two public hearings during a 75-day public comment period and  
21           received 142 comments; and

22 WHEREAS, in September 2022 OPCD issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement featuring  
23           a preferred alternative; and

1 WHEREAS, OPCD is proposing five ordinances that together implement the land use strategies  
2 recommended by the Industrial and Maritime Strategy Council and were studied in the  
3 Industrial and Maritime Strategy Environmental Impact Statement and includes an  
4 ordinance amending Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan to create a new land use policy  
5 framework, an amendment to the Seattle Municipal Code to establish new industrial  
6 zones and development standards consistent with the proposed Comprehensive Plan  
7 Policies, an ordinance to remove the provision of the Industrial Commercial zone from  
8 the existing Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 23.50, an ordinance amending Title 25 to  
9 address noise in the shoreline areas of the Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing  
10 Center, and an ordinance to apply the proposed new zones to land in Seattle’s industrial  
11 areas; and

12 WHEREAS, Ballard stakeholders raised the issue of the challenges of continuing to operate on  
13 industrial shorelines in the Ballard Interbay North Manufacturing Industrial Center  
14 caused by encroachment of nonindustrial uses; and

15 WHEREAS, there are no industrial land use conflicts caused by encroaching nonindustrial land  
16 uses on other industrial shorelines; NOW, THEREFORE,

17 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

18 Section 1. Section 25.08.100 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
19 124883, is amended as follows:

20 **25.08.100 Districts**

21 "District" means the land use zones to which the provisions of this Chapter 25.08 are applied. For  
22 the purposes of this Chapter 25.08:

1 A. "Residential District" includes zones defined as residential zones and NC1 zones in  
2 ~~((the Land Use Code of the City of Seattle,))~~ Title 23.

3 B. "Commercial District" includes zones designated as NC2, NC3, SM, SM-SLU, SM-D,  
4 SM-NR, C1, C2, DOC1, DOC2, DRC, DMC, PSM, IDM, DH1, DH2, PMM, ~~((and))~~ IB, and UI  
5 in ~~((the Land Use Code of the City of Seattle,))~~ Title 23.

6 C. "Industrial District" includes zones designated as IG1, IG2, MML, II, and IC in ~~((the~~  
7 ~~Land Use Code of the City of Seattle,))~~ Title 23.

8 D. For any zone not listed in subsections 25.08.100.A, 25.08.100.B, or 25.08.100.C, the  
9 Administrator may determine that the zone is substantially similar to a zone listed in subsections  
10 25.08.100.A, 25.08.100.B, or 25.08.100.C and may classify it similarly for purposes of this  
11 ~~((chapter))~~ Chapter 25.08.

12 Section 2. Section 25.08.410 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
13 122923, is amended as follows:

14 **25.08.410 Exterior sound level limits~~((:))~~**

15 A. The exterior sound level limits are based on the Leq during the measurement interval,  
16 using a minimum measurement interval of ~~((+))~~ one minute for a constant sound source, or a  
17 one-hour measurement for a non-continuous sound source. For sound sources located within the  
18 City, the exterior sound level limits are as ~~((follows))~~ shown in Table A for 25.08.410:

19 ~~((Exterior sound level limits))~~

<b>Table A for 25.08.410</b>			
<b>Exterior sound level limits</b>			
<b>District of ((Sound Source)) sound source</b>	<b>District of ((Receiving Property)) receiving property</b>		
	<b>Residential (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>	<b>Commercial (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>	<b>Industrial (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>
Residential	55	57	60
Commercial	57	60	65

**Table A for 25.08.410**

**Exterior sound level limits**

<b>District of ((Sound Source)) sound source</b>	<b>District of ((Receiving Property)) receiving property</b>		
	<b>Residential (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>	<b>Commercial (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>	<b>Industrial (dB(A)) (Leq)</b>
Industrial	60 <sup>1</sup>	65 <sup>1</sup>	70

**Footnote for Table A for 25.08.410**

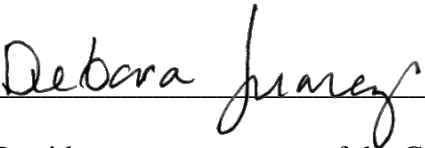
<sup>1</sup> Except the sound level limit from a sound source that originates on property within the Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing and Industrial Center (BINMIC) and is within 200 feet of a shoreline is 70 (dB(A)) (Leq) in both residential and commercial receiving property districts.

1  
2  
3


B. During a measurement interval, Lmax may exceed the exterior sound level limits shown in subsection 25.08.410.A by no more than 15 dB(A).

1 Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force: 90 days after its approval or  
2 unsigned and returned by the Mayor; 90 days after the City Council's reconsidered passage after  
3 its veto by the Mayor; or, if not returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, 105  
4 days after its passage by the City Council.


5 Passed by the City Council the 18th day of July, 2023,  
6 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 18th day of  
7 July, 2023.

8   
9 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

10  Approved /  returned unsigned /  vetoed this 25th day of July, 2023.

11   
12 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

13 Filed by me this 25th day of July, 2023.

14   
15 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

16 (Seal)