

DECIBEL Permit – Sound Mitigation Plan

The City of Raleigh established the **DECIBEL Permit** to allow commercial establishments to operate amplified sound at levels above standard limits while protecting quality of life for nearby residents. This permit applies to businesses located outside the Glenwood South Hospitality District and is intended for applicants who can demonstrate a commitment to responsible sound management. Approval is contingent on ensuring that amplified sound extending beyond the property line does not create significant harm to the surrounding community.

As part of the application process, applicants are required to submit a **Sound Mitigation Plan** and a **Site Plan**. These materials must clearly identify proposed sound equipment, programming, and specific strategies to minimize sound impacts beyond the property line. All plans must be completed in full and submitted online as attachments through the [Permit and Development Portal](#) when applying for the DECIBEL Permit.

City staff will review all submitted materials to determine whether the proposed use is appropriate for the site, considering factors such as proximity to residential areas, proposed sound levels, and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures. Approved permits will include specific conditions that regulate amplified sound operations to reduce potential negative impacts on the surrounding community. This document outlines the required information needed to prepare a complete Sound Mitigation Plan.

Business Information

Applicant Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Business Address: _____

Date: _____

Amplified Sound Description

Type(s) of Amplified Sound (check all that apply):

- ☐ Recorded Music
☐ Live DJ
☐ Live Performance – Solo or Duo (acoustic or minimal setup)
☐ Live Performance – Full Band (electric instruments and/or full drum kit)
☐ Other: _____

Maximum Allowable Sound Levels

The table below identifies the **maximum allowable decibel (dB) levels** by day and time. Approval to operate at these levels is **not guaranteed** and may be subject to permit conditions.

Day and Time	Maximum dB
10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. (Sun–Thurs)	80 dB(A) / 88 dB(C)
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. (Fri–Sat)	80 dB(A) / 88 dB(C)

Requested Operating Hours and Sound Levels

In the table below, list the days and hours you are requesting to operate amplified sound above standard limits and provide the corresponding requested and projected decibel levels.

Day	Operating Time (Start – End) HH:MM – HH:MM	Requested dB(A) at Property Line	Requested dB(C) at Property Line	Projected dB(A) at Nearest Residence (if applicable)	Projected dB(C) at Nearest Residence (if applicable)
Sun					
Mon					
Tue					
Wed					
Thu					
Fri					
Sat					

Sound System Information

This information must also be shown on the submitted Site Plan.

- **Speaker Make and Model:** _____
- **Number of Speakers:** _____
- **Number of Subwoofers:** _____

Sound Monitoring

All permit holders are required to maintain a sound level meter on-site during amplified sound operations. At a minimum, the device must be capable of measuring dB(A) and dB(C) using both fast and slow response settings.

- **Make and Model of Sound Level Meter:** _____
- **Will staff be trained to monitor and manage sound levels?**
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes:
• **Staff Positions or Roles Receiving Training:** _____

Sound Mitigation Measures

Describe all existing and/or proposed sound mitigation measures intended to reduce sound impacts beyond the property line. *Examples may include, but are not limited to acoustic treatments, soundproofing, speaker placement or orientation, volume limiters, building modifications, or operational controls.*
