



Enforcement of Noise Violations in the City

**Police Dept.,
ESD Code Compliance,
Planning & Inspections Dept.**



ENFORCEMENT ROLES





Noise Enforcement





El Paso Police Dept. (EPPD)

- Will respond to all noise/nuisance complaints, regardless of day or time of day
- Will respond to potential violations of outdoor sound permit:
 - Check for posted sound permit
 - No amplified sound after midnight
 - 70 dB reading at property line





A DIVISION OF ESD



- Will respond, within 24 hrs, to noise nuisance complaints received Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am - 4: 00 pm
- Conduct follow-up compliance visits for EPPD citations at establishments with outdoor sound permits and at properties with recurring noncompliance
- Track complaints and maintain compliance history in the City’s Accela database



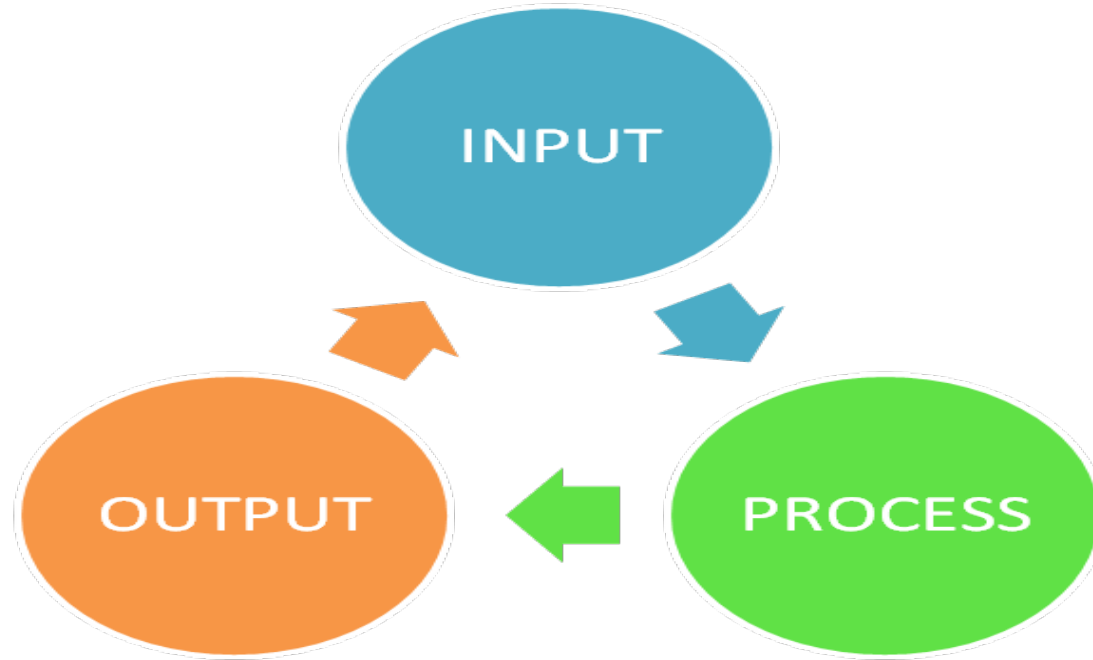
Planning & Inspections Dept.

- Process permit application and coordinate public notification procedure
- Conduct initial permit application inspection and permit renewal inspections
- Issue permit and manage appeals process
- Conduct building code inspections for potential violations, when referred by EPPD or ESD Code Compliance





Processes





EPPD

- If a violation of the noise nuisance ordinance is observed, an officer may:
 - Issue a written warning;
 - Generate a written report; and/or
 - Issue a Class C citation



ESD Code

- If a violation of the noise nuisance ordinance is observed, a Code Enforcement Officer may:
 - Issue a notice of correction;
 - Issue a Class C citation; or
 - File a prosecution request with the City Prosecutor



Class C Citations

- Citations are always issued at the discretion of the responding officer



Planning & Inspections

- Have the power to suspend or revoke permit for continued noncompliance
- Issue notices of corrections for violations of the City Building Code



TRAINING



"Delivering Outstanding Services"



Sound Level Measurement

- PD and Code Officers have received training on properly utilizing sound level meters
- New officers will receive initial training
- Refresher training will be conducted periodically for each officer



Person of Reasonable Sensibilities

- EPPD and Code Enforcement Officers may utilize the Person of Reasonable Sensibility Standard
- EPPD and ESD will receive initial and periodic refresher training on this standard, which includes:
 - Volume
 - Time of day
 - Type of noise
 - Duration of noise





Resources

- Currently there are 28 sound level meters (approximately 4-6 at each Regional Command)
- The costs of a meter is approximately \$70.00
- The cost to equip each patrol unit (300) with one meter is approximately \$21,000
- EPPD will incur the costs to purchase the meters



Recommendations

- Create an Environmental Court to address violations of Title 9 of the El Paso City Code



EPPD response to noise disturbance calls

2017 – 6,675

2018 – 6,489 (approx. 400-600 calls monthly)



Recommendations cont

- Create a permanent code enforcement task force, comprised of multiple City departments:

Fire, ESD, P&I, and EPPD

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TASK | FORCE





Sound Level Meter

- EPPD or ESD may utilize a noise meter if one is readily available



"Delivering Outstanding Services"