



## Woodhaven Residents' Block Association

Established 1972

84-20 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven N.Y. 11421

(718) 296-3735 [info@woodhaven-nyc.org](mailto:info@woodhaven-nyc.org)

**Written Testimony of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association  
Before the New York City Council  
Committee on Environmental Protection  
Regarding the Oversight Hearing on Residential Noise (T2011-3134)  
(Int 0278-2010 A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of  
New York, in relation to the noise control code)  
June 27, 2011**

Thank you, Chairman Gennaro, and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection for the opportunity to testify. We would especially like to acknowledge Council Members Eric Ulrich and Elizabeth Crowley, who represent Woodhaven and are very familiar with our work.

This testimony is being submitted by the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association (WRBA). The WRBA, now in its 40th year, works on behalf of the residents of Woodhaven, a neighborhood in Queens. The WRBA serves as an advocate of Woodhaven residents, promotes neighborhood spirit by bringing together residents and local leaders, and seeks to engage all in the betterment of our community.

The WRBA strives to be responsive to the residents of Woodhaven. Our efforts take many forms: we are in regular touch with our elected officials to emphasize the importance of particular issues; we serve as a conduit with the 102nd Precinct to help maintain the safety and quality of life in Woodhaven; we establish programs on our own to deal with problems such as the shortage of parking, the proliferation of graffiti, and the growing problem of abandoned houses; and we give residents a chance to speak up and be heard at our monthly town hall meetings.

By far, the single most frequent complaint that the residents of Woodhaven make to the WRBA is about residential noise. This has been the case for years. On August 19, 2009, the WRBA devoted a town hall meeting to determining which problems facing the community were the most pressing. Resoundingly, those in attendance voted that residential noise was the most significant problem. This came as no surprise to the members of the WRBA Board of Directors; though this was the first time the matter had been put to a vote in Woodhaven, the number of residential noise complaints had begun its steep climb years before.

This testimony describes our organization's experiences regarding noise complaints, and also serves as a compilation of our residents' opinions. When asked last week about residential noise, the people of Woodhaven responded quickly, at length, and with frustration, anger—even despair. Noise is an issue about which Woodhaven residents are passionate. For each quotation by a resident that appears in this testimony, there are four that we did not have time or space to include. But their sentiments are extremely similar to the ones expressed here.

All quotes were submitted to the WRBA by residents of Woodhaven, and used with their permission. Occasionally, emphasis was added to draw attention to a particular part of a quotation.

## I. Overview

One prevailing feeling we hear from our residents is that residential noise conditions have come very close to ruining Woodhaven—and that a solution to the problem seems unlikely. Consider the following heartfelt words of a lifelong resident of Woodhaven:

“I have worked and saved many long years to purchase our home here. I own, and have lived in the same house on 85th Avenue for over 25 years. I consider myself lucky to have raised my son in the same neighborhood that I also had a happy childhood growing up in.

The amount of intrusive noise has steadily grown over the last 7 years or so. The increasing noise levels have brought about a tremendous increase of stress in my family's home life. The lack of sleep because of this noise is taking a physical toll on me and my ability to do my job. At times, I am embarrassed to have company over. Nerves are frayed, to say the least. Cars blaring their music at a deafening level as they zoom past, or wait at red lights, are a hazard to other drivers and pedestrian safety. They are unraveling the close-knit community that Woodhaven once was.

In extreme noise situations (music blasting where it vibrates my home for hours), I have followed the advice of community leaders and filed complaints to 311 over the years. I have also confronted the situations directly. There has never been any response by the police. Ever. Twice, I have even tried to follow up with my precinct and was told over the phone, by a very nice officer, that they had no record of my 311 complaint number in their log. **I am close to giving up.”**

To hear a lifelong resident—a valued member of our community with the deepest of roots—speak about giving up is discouraging, and especially telling. This is a person who has been closely involved with charity work, who has shown determination in the face of adversity. Residential noise is threatening to drive away our best and our brightest lights, and to rend the fabric of the community.

This story—and the ones that follow—provide ample reason why the administrative code should be amended as detailed in this motion. However, it is important to note that the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association feels that this is only one part of the solution, and other measures will be required. We will discuss those additional steps later in this testimony.

## II. The Current Quality of Life in Woodhaven

Woodhaven has been aptly described as “A Haven In The City”—street after street of well-maintained homes, an abundance of trees and greenery. Though the people of Woodhaven value their tranquility, residents are, as you can see below, quite often willing to compromise—but compromise requires *multiple* partners:

“Sometimes I would like to have a simple relaxing day in my backyard. Instead, I have multiple neighbors blasting music throughout the day and night. At least my air conditioner drowns out some of the noise but there are nights when the weather is cooler and I want to save money on my energy bill and leave my windows open but I can't. I don't understand how you can blast music this loud for a party. You see groups of people sitting down and the music is blasting, don't these people talk to each other at a party?”

In these tough economic times, more and more people are going to opt for open windows over air conditioners. And this will lead to more complaints, more conflict, more unhappiness. And what of those who compromise to the point of not opening their windows? Here is another resident:

“There have been a number of times in recent years when a few particular neighbors would throw parties on the weekends that were so loud you couldn't even hear your own television, sitting in the same room, **with the windows closed**. For some reason one neighbor would put the speakers out back, facing our house, while his guests remained INSIDE his own house (apparently it was too loud for them too). For some reason, Friday nights are not the loudest. Saturday and Sunday are the worst.

Many times on a Saturday night the partying would go on well past 3 a.m. and could be heard throughout my house, even with the windows closed. Another neighbor, across from the front of the house, regularly has parties on his front porch, where he has installed sliding glass doors and a tiki bar just inside. Sometimes the parties go all night on Saturday, but they very often go past 3 am on a Sunday night too, when we are trying to sleep for work the next day. In short, there have been weekends when I can't enjoy my own yard for the blasting music, can't keep my windows open and can't get a good rest before the work week."

In short, the residents of Woodhaven have been patient, they have gone through the suggested routes to avoid conflict, and they have tried compromise. This next resident makes an excellent point about those who are the ones making noise:

"In my home I hear low level rumbling and thumping off and on all day long from unknown sources. I play a white noise CD and turn on box fans in an attempt to overcome the noise. It helps, but it doesn't reduce the effects of infrasound when it is being produced. **Ironically, when neighborhood noise-makers want peace and quiet, nobody disturbs them.**

It's sometimes hard to sleep at night because my neighbors are partying into the wee hours. Then there are the drivers who zoom down the block, blasting their music and making such a noise that they set off all the car alarms on the block. This, of course, produces more noise for a time. It's rude and annoying. I've lived in Woodhaven most of my life and it's definitely worse than ever now."

And here's a piece of feedback we've received countless times:

"When we bought our house 48 years ago, Woodhaven was a quiet little place. We chose the front bedroom as our place to sleep; it was a good decision at that time. Now, people pass by late into the night conversing loudly. Cars zoom up and down the street playing loud music. Our dear Woodhaven has become awake 24/7."

The complaint is echoed by older residents, by younger residents, from all races and nationalities:

"It is impossible to sleep, people play loud music until the early hours of the morning. All night long the music is playing. Parties going on all night long."

The residents of Woodhaven are frustrated because they have tried. They have tried compromise. They have tried following the rules. They have tried coping. They have tried blocking out the noise.

“It may sound corny, but it is incredibly discouraging to me, someone who was raised to respect others around me and follow the rules. I also feel my property value has diminished because of these trouble spots on my block. I have nothing against parties and people having a good time, but not at a professional DJ level of volume that lasts into the wee hours of the morning.

A person's home and backyard should be their haven; a refuge to relax and enjoy time with family; a place to work or study at leisure. **Not a place to barricade yourself in, with windows and doors shut tight. Even doing that doesn't shut out the invasive noise... and running the air conditioner as a sound buffer is wasteful and expensive.”**

The quality of life in Woodhaven has been severely diminished due to residential noise abuse. The residents are past the point of being frustrated and well into the phase of discouragement.

### **III. Residential Noise and Its Link to Other Problems**

Residential noise is sometimes trivialized as a mere quality of life issue. Residents of Woodhaven whose lives are made nearly unbearable by neighbors' noise would certainly object to minimizing the significance of this problem. But there is yet another reason not to downplay residential noise: it is often connected to more significant problems.

One relatively new issue plaguing our community is the rise of house parties. Consider what this resident had to say:

“Loud and high decibel speakers used during parties that sometimes have lasted as late as 4:00 in the morning have been a problem over the last few years.... I really believe that the sale of audio equipment that is capable of high decibel levels should be restricted to licensed music professionals and not allowed in residential neighborhoods. There are many studies that indicate that exposure to these levels of noise are harmful to hearing especially in young children who are often at such parties. But it can affect all. I'm a musician myself and sing with orchestras regularly. Sometimes the noise from next door is more powerful than what I deal with on stage.”

Then there are parties that go way beyond your run-of-the-mill house parties. We are referring to individuals who repeatedly host parties in Woodhaven's houses as a moneymaking enterprise, widely publicizing the event and promising loud music through the night. In some cases, these parties are even held in abandoned or foreclosed houses.

For example, earlier this month, one particularly inconsiderate host posted a party invitation on Twitter for the whole world to see. The Tweet indicated that the party was a fundraiser, and was being held at a specific house address in Woodhaven. "Party all nite!" the Tweet promised. There was no shame—or fear—in this brazen invitation.

Unfortunately, it could also be an invitation to trouble. In March, a birthday party in Woodhaven that was openly advertised on Facebook and that included cover charges set the stage for the death of 18-year-old Anthony Collao. A group of teenagers showed up to the party, refused to pay the cover fee, began picking fights, and then ended up chasing Collao down the block. They reportedly beat him to within an inch of his life while spewing homophobic slurs. Collao later died when he was taken off life support. The culture of raucous, sometimes commercial house parties is not adequately curbed, and it creates an environment ripe for this sort of tragedy.

Many Woodhaven residents live in proximity to commercial properties, some of which also serve as party venues into the early morning hours. These, too, contribute to dangerous conditions. One resident made that point:

"Although I knew buying a house on a busy corner I would always hear the sounds of cars at all hours passing by nothing could have prepared me for the noise I've encountered from noisy house parties of neighbors and noise from night clubs opening up on Atlantic Avenue. Time after time no matter how much I called a complained to 311, I would never see a police car drive by and ask people to turn down their music. I spent countless hours in bed tossing and turning till the break of morning listening to music blasting and people coming out of clubs drunk and screaming and yelling walking down the streets. I've even called in a few times to 911 when fights would break out at 2-4 o'clock in the morning from the same clubs. The noise and parties have become louder and more obnoxious. I have not sleep right I'd have to say in the last 3 years especially during the spring and summer months. I'm afraid one day it will become so out of control that someone might begin to shoot a weapon and that my family might become innocent victims."

The lack of consideration shown by the hosts of loud house parties can also enrage neighbors to the point of inviting trouble. We have heard several anecdotes similar to this one:

“When the noise has been bad I haven't been able to sleep, have gotten headaches, my plaster walls have cracked from the high vibrations of the house next door, expensive statues on shelves crashed and broke and I've lost my temper with the situation on one particularly bad occasion (3:00 a.m. party, my house was shaking) and wound up confronting my drunk neighbors.”

When residential noise becomes extreme—as it too often has become in our neighborhood—it has the potential to escalate a bad situation into something worse.

Residential noise is linked to other issues. Addressing residential noise will help prevent more serious problems.

#### **IV. Calling 311 / Reporting Issues**

The residents of Woodhaven are quite outspoken about their feelings regarding New York City's 311 service when it comes to residential noise complaints. To be clear, the people of Woodhaven have enjoyed a degree of success when making some other non-emergency complaints through 311: road repairs, downed trees, and the like. But for non-emergency complaints requiring police involvement, the results are not good.

“311 will simply take the call and then 3-4 hours later the police arrive. By that time its 4 AM.”

And:

“It's impossible to get through 311 for a noise complaint and calling the police directly puts you on the bottom of the list.”

And:

“Nothing is done to handle noise complaints. You can call 311 who pass it to the local precinct, but **their response is that they have more important issues to handle.**”

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association encourages our residents to call 311 first—and we always tell our residents to give accurate information (e.g., the offending location's address) and to ask the 311 representative for the complaint number. As you can see from this sampling, the results have not inspired much

confidence. And the feeling that the police have more important issues to handle is prevalent among our residents.

This resident highlights a major problem—and one of the main reasons this problem has spiraled out of control and a change in the law is needed:

“When I have called 311, especially to report a fight, there has been no timely response, especially in the middle of the night. We usually just try to go back to sleep. The worst part is that we have 2 small children, who are forced to hear swearing and foul language from the open windows, or wake up in the middle of the night from the sound of car alarms. **I think police patrols would help deter the causes of noise complaints and crime in the neighborhood in general.**”

Indeed. At the most recent meeting of the 102nd Precinct Community Council on June 21, 2011, a police representative reported that, in general on a given night, there are only four cars out on patrol—**for the entire 102nd Precinct.**

This is a precinct that covers, according to NYC.gov:

“[R]esidential and commercial districts. It contains mostly one family homes, with high-rise apartment buildings in the Northeast section. The neighborhoods within the precinct are: **Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill East, Richmond Hill, Woodhaven,** and the **Northern part of Ozone Park.** There are 5 large commercial strips within the precinct; Jamaica Ave. between Elders Lane and the Van Wick Expressway, 101st Ave. between Drew St. and the Van Wyck Expwy., Queens Blvd. between Union Turnpike Service Road and Hoover Ave., and Rockaway Blvd. from Elders Lane to 103rd Ave.”

That is a very large footprint. A lot of ground to cover. And it is being covered by only four patrol cars.

This is totally inadequate and unacceptable, but it convincingly explains why non-emergency residential noise complaints are acted upon hours (or days) later, if at all.

Simply put: **The 102nd Precinct needs more police officers.**

## V. Alternatives

Make no mistake: The proposed changes to the law, as written, are very popular among the residents who have seen it. However, there is a concern that it is, as one resident put it, “like slapping a Band-Aid on a shark bite.”

The publicity regarding the tougher fines will certainly help in the short term. But laws without enforcement are just empty words. Some residents have pointed to a New York City Department of Environmental Protection publication titled, “Have You Heard? New York City Has Overhauled Its Noise Code!”<sup>1</sup> This piece of literature shows that attempts have been made to toughen the law and to crack down on this problem. But without enforcement, this is little more than a meaningless pamphlet.

New York City Police Department Commissioner Raymond Kelly attended a WRBA meeting on October 21, 2009, and pointed out the difficulty that his officers face in handling residential noise complaints:

“About two-thirds of the complaints in the city are noise complaints. One of the problems is that when ... police officers respond and tell people to turn down the radio ... they do that. We drive away, and they turn it up again. Now you can give some summonses; depending on the type of noise, you can get a noise reader and be able to give that summons. **Now it’s not an easy issue for the Police Department to handle.** I mean, common sense would tell you that if the police show up, they’re going to quiet down. You don’t expect them to go back and turn up the sound or whatever. But that happens a lot.”<sup>2</sup>

Thus, even Commissioner Kelly recognizes that the NYPD’s current approach to noise complaints often falls short. Something else must be done.

So, residents have become thinking of practical alternatives:

“[M]aybe these complaints could be handled specifically by a special community affairs team of officers... or, a unit from the DEP, or the EPA. Someone needs to be empowered with documenting the complaints and noise levels, and then imposing some level of consequence.”

---

<sup>1</sup> New York City Department of Environmental Protection, “Have You Heard? New York City Has Overhauled Its Noise Code!” Revised March 2011. Available at [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise\\_code\\_guide.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise_code_guide.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> A video of this section of Commissioner Kelly’s remarks to the WRBA is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wd63WEzrBeU>.

If we can have persons trained to patrol the city inspecting the trash that residents place in recyclable bags, then certainly we can train people to pull up to a house that has been reported, point a decibel meter, and write a ticket if the noise limit is being exceeded.

No confrontation would be needed. There is already a precedent: The Sanitation Department tickets the homeowner. If the noise came from a tenant, the homeowner and tenant can resolve the situation among themselves, just as it is done with Sanitation summonses.

“The city needs money, we want quiet, it's a win-win situation.”

We agree. With these new fines in place, the City of New York would make a fortune in Woodhaven alone. And, over time, people would truly get the message. And perhaps we will have made significant progress toward tranquility.

As an added bonus, this plan would free up the police to do what they do best—to serve and protect—without the distraction of non-emergencies.

Though this is not the place to delve into an academic discourse, one would be well-served to note the existence of rigorous scholarly research indicating that the probability of being punished for a crime has a much stronger deterrent effect than the severity of the punishment.<sup>3</sup> Of course, you do not need to hold a doctorate to recognize this; we at the WRBA have long known that stringent penalties without proper enforcement will not put an end to this already-illegal behavior.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, and the residents of Woodhaven, thank the City Council of New York for taking up this issue and for investing the time to read this testimony.

We would also like it to be clearly understood that we have complete and total respect for the men and women of the 102nd Precinct, and the personnel that we have been working actively with, including (but not limited to) Deputy Inspector Armando DeLeon, Captain Martin Briffa, Executive Officer John Hall, and Officers John McCoy and Christopher Estrella of Community Affairs. They do remarkable work under trying circumstances, and we appreciate their efforts.

We fully endorse this amendment to the noise control code and call for a vote to be expedited and for the amendment to take place as soon as possible.

---

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, Daniel S. Nagin and Greg Pogarsky, “An Experimental Investigation of Deterrence: Cheating, Self-Serving Bias, and Impulsivity,” 41 *Criminology* 167 (2003).

However, we also call for increased personnel within the 102nd Precinct to give them the personnel and the tools to achieve your goal. We also call for all alternatives to be explored, including tasking other agencies with handling non-emergencies such as residential noise violations.

Respectfully,

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association

Edward K. Wendell	President
Janet Chan-Smith	First Vice President
Alexander J. Blenkinsopp	Second Vice President
Roger Hennin	Third Vice President
Arlene Annunziata	Secretary
Vance Barbour	Treasurer
Maria Thomson	Financial Secretary
Martin Colberg	Director
Linda Fogal	Office Manager

Our office phone is 718-296-3735 – however, our office is not open 7 days a week. We may also be reached via e-mail at [info@woodhaven-nyc.org](mailto:info@woodhaven-nyc.org).

## Appendix

The following testimony was received by the WRBA via e-mail and further demonstrates the need to resolve this issue. Please take the time to read each of these accounts, understanding that each represents a separate household that has had its life upended by thoughtless residents who have gotten away with this behavior for years.

Although I knew buying a house on a busy corner I would always hear the sounds of cars at all hours passing by. Nothing could have prepared me for the noise I've encountered from noisy house parties of neighbors and noise from night clubs opening up on Atlantic Avenue. **Time after time no matter how much I called a complained to 311, I would never see a police car drive by and ask people to turn down their music.** I spent countless hours in bed tossing and turning till the break of morning listening to music blasting and people coming out of clubs drunk and screaming and yelling and walking down the streets. I've even called in a few times to 911 when fights would break out at 2-4 o'clock in the morning from the same clubs. The noise and parties have become louder and more obnoxious. I have not slept right I'd have to say in the last 3 years especially during the spring and summer months. I'm afraid one day it will become so out of control that someone might begin to shoot a weapon and that my family might become innocent victims.



The quality of life has gone down so much on my block in the past several years due to the noise in front of the building, the ongoing parties, and the ice cream man coming down the street at 10-11:00 at night. Nothing is being done about it. I have called 311, have called the 102 and unless you tell them someone has a weapon nobody comes until hours later if at all and the problem is usually resolved by then because I get into a screaming match over and over until they finally leave. This block is always bad during the warm months because they get high and deal in front of the building and there is always a problem. I have called 911 at 8-9 and at 2:00 AM still nothing so it gets to the point that either I take care of it myself or my 6 year old son will be up all night.

We live right on Jamaica Ave., so of course we expect noise from the trains, buses, and people. However, there are many car alarms blasting in the middle of the night, and people fighting on the street, yelling at each other and cursing, and we don't see any police patrols or intervention. When I have called 311, especially to report a fight, there has been no timely response, especially in the middle of the night. We usually just try to go back to sleep. The worst part is that we have 2 small children, who are forced to hear swearing and foul language from the open windows, or wake up in the middle of the night from the sound of car alarms. I think police patrols would help deter the causes of noise complaints and crime in the neighborhood in general.



Handling the noise has been a hardship. Just absolutely unbearable. I have a place in PA. Sometimes I just go because I can not stand the noise around here.



Growing up if any of the neighbors would have a party that they knew would run a little long they or would be slightly loud they would let all of the neighbors know in advance so you would be prepared or know it was coming and it never was more than low music and loud talking. Now you know you are in trouble when you see a house put a port o potty on their front lawn – is that even legal? Then the noise starts midday. The music is so loud that the houses across the street and down the block rattle. This goes on all day long into the night, into the next day, the next night and sometimes even the day after that. You try calling 311 and if it's a Friday or Saturday night they put you on hold then eventually they tell you that they are really busy and try calling back tomorrow. So you call the 102 precinct and they tell you that you have to deal with it because it's a religious service (or something to that effect, we have to respect them but they have no respect for us) and after you continue to complain they eventually tell you that they will send someone by to talk to them. By now they are standing on the neighbor's lawns and in the street, drunk, they have already parked in your driveway so you can't get in or out and curse you when you tell them to move the car (very religious). There are about 200 people in the back yard (can you say fire hazard) so it spills out into the street. On our block this happens a few times a year but it shouldn't happen at all.

I would say that loud noise conditions are closely tied to illegally occupied homes. Renting rooms, basements, etc. has led many residents to spend most of their time outdoors (in porches, stoops, backyards) blasting music that should otherwise be left for the privacy of their (currently rented out) living rooms. Ever try sitting on your porch to read a magazine and have to hear three different types of music emanating from homes on your block? I have. It *{expletives deleted}*.



It is frustrating to deal with noisy neighbors who do not take their neighbors into consideration when planning day AND evening parties with loud booming music. Professional speaker systems should be left for reception/catering halls and clubs not backyard BBQs. Also, I understand that people of different cultures/religions have customs with regards to 3 and 4 day celebrations but come on - that's what a reception hall is for! Why do we ALL need to hear continuous music for a party that no one in the neighborhood cares to be a part of. Calling 311 is useless (I have seen the police come once for a call) and from what people say about the precinct and their desk attendants, taking that route seems useless as well. Aren't there noise codes in the city? Shouldn't people be fined when they repeatedly violate them? Yeesh! It's bad enough that we can't get enough sleep on work nights but then we have to deal with talking to neighbors about their disrespectful and illegal behavior as well. Not exactly an ideal situation. That's probably why so many of us just silently simmer in disbelief and resentment.



I must close windows and use my air conditioners when the local boom car pulls out of it's garage and starts broadcasting. It is difficult to sleep, concentrate on tasks, read, or even think calmly when this is going on. Recently, my 2 year old grandson was shocked out of his afternoon nap by our resident boom car. Now I can only hope that it doesn't start up when he's visiting. Boom cars that are parked or passing at night have disrupted my sleep so that I'm tired the next day. Incessant low level thumping from a distance is also irritating and distracting.

My neighbors at {address deleted} throw ridiculous parties once/twice a month till the early morning and their friends/relatives hang outside, some urinate on the street and all get drunk and act stupid. Police have arrived to their house 3 times within the past year after me and other neighbors have called 311 and we have even asked nicely to control the music and guests but when you do they simply nod and pretend like they don't speak English. Their speakers are over 4 feet tall and they have professional DJ equipment. I have seen them load it and unload it on vans.



These clubs are attracting the wrong people to such a beautiful neighborhood and have opened the doors for noisy neighbors to also become a ruckus. Neighbors now are playing music ridiculously loud and have no care in the world for other people having to rest. I've even had a conversation with a neighbor that told me "Well if it's going to be hard to sleep because of other people why not make my own parties and at least I'll enjoy myself better" Garbage is everywhere on the streets, beer bottles, cans, papers and even drug paraphernalia. I've have even received violations for garbage on my property due these people leaving clubs and throwing their garbage on my property. I'm so sick to my stomach at how powerless we are as Woodhaven Residents when it comes to keeping our neighborhood quiet and clean. Why is there not a separate division in the police force for these kinds of complaints? Regular beat officers have way too many important calls to have to deal with these minor offenses. **I myself am a Police Officer and truly am sick of this nonsense.** There has to be something we can do as Residents! There has to be a better solution than just calling 311 and waiting just to see nothing being resolved. This should not just fall on the laps of beat officers whom have far more important things to do on their tours than worry about a noise complaint. People are still breaking the law playing music past 11pm on weekends. There has to be a way to have them ticketed or summonsed.



My relatives, who currently live in Forest Hills, wanted to move into my vacant apartment but decided against it after hearing very loud sound from a house on the corner. I wish I could move, but the best I have been able to do is use ear plugs and turn on television captions.

Last Saturday night I came home late and there was such a loud party on the next block, I kept thinking it has to end soon but it didn't so I tried to call 311 couldn't get thru called the 102 they told me "Oh I don't think we've had any complaints about that party" (hard to believe). I asked could they please send someone, I just want to get some sleep since I had to be up at 8 am. Sometime around 3am the party ended. This is unacceptable. Our block has a lot of elderly and young children, it should not be too much to ask to be able to sleep in your own home.



Last July 4 block party entertainment was provided by a stack of large booming speakers. I saw a neighbor walk over and speak to someone, but the excessive sound continued. I called 311 and then the precinct community office. I learned that the partiers had a permit, but officers made them turn down the sound. It lasted about 30 minutes. When the permit time had expired, the music was turned up and fireworks were set off in the street. By that time, 311 and the precinct were unreachable.



I would like some answers when you call the police - when you call they never come. If these people knew there were consequences maybe they would stop. They are accountable to no one.



I feel that nothing is done to enforce the so-called noise code. House/backyard/EVEN PORCH parties with booming unnecessary music still happen. Isn't it time that someone be sent out to patrol? Does something truly bad and irrevocable have to occur before the city takes notice and action? The untimely deaths of youth in the past year in the area should be a wake up call that something is not okay. We don't need to settle for lower standards and lower quality of life - not now, not ever.

These people have no respect for the police. After the police come by they tell them to be quiet you hear them making fun of them and laughing at them.



First off - the law should show up. Period. Don't tell me to call 311 if you're not going to follow-up at all. Don't waste time repeating the noise code to me on said 311 call either. I'm obviously aware of it. YOU (311, Police, whoever enforces these codes) need to do something about it. If you have people from the city giving parking tickets and horn-honking tickets, you should have people from the city controlling the noise issues in residential neighborhoods. Practice what you preach. Ever read this?

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise\\_code\\_guide.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise_code_guide.pdf)

I have, and as far as I am concerned, if I use this as a guide you are failing your residents in Woodhaven. Start enforcing your laws. Do you know what its like to be intimidated by a new loud resident who snidely says "go ahead, call the police if you want the music off." Want to know why older residents are reticent to complain or give their names or numbers in official complaints? RETALIATION. Who will defend them when a macho rowdy neighbor comes to confront them about a complaint. No one. You fail to show up for the noise complaints, the complaints about illegal house parties, the complaints about violations in fire codes and laws on renting spaces in a 1 family home, the complaints about lewdness and public urination. What actions would I like to see taken? Action period. Because so far it seems like nothing has been done.



I definitely feel that noise conditions have gotten worse over the last 3-5 years. I do not think enough is done to handle noise complaints. I would like to see a quicker response time to these complaints, as well as a greater police presence. I have lived in Woodhaven for over 40 years, and it is very disheartening to see what is happening. Having said this, I still love Woodhaven. I am confident that TOGETHER we will get a handle on the noise problem.