

[Shhhhhh! You're in a D.C. Bar!](#)

Posted by [Perry Stein](#) on Mar. 13, 2014 Washington City Paper

The residents of Dupont may soon be able to sleep a little more soundly. The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration announced that it would be kicking off a noise laws campaign this evening—a campaign that will encourage establishments to learn about and comply with D.C. noise laws that are already on the books.

The campaign comes after a Dupont citizens group, D.C. Nightlife Noise Coalition, began [pushing](#) for local officials to enforce the Noise Control Act, which limits noise levels at night to 60 decibels, or about the sound level of a normal conversation. The group, according to its spokeswoman, **Sarah Peck**, has already formally protested six bars trying to renew their liquor licenses and has gone around the Dupont area—specifically the area south of Dupont Circle along Connecticut Avenue nicknamed Club Central—with a sound meter to measure the sound emanating from the local establishments.

"I'm trying to do the work that the city should be doing, that people who get a pay check from the city should be doing," Peck says.

The press release that ABRA sent out today does not specifically mention the Dupont neighborhood or the campaign. But, as [reported](#) by Short Articles about Long Meetings, the Dupont ANC hosted an information session on the initiative this week.

"There will be increased noise checks starting this Thursday in many areas, including this neighborhood [i.e., Dupont Circle]", director of ABRA **Fred Moosally** said at the meeting. "Business will not be informed beforehand."

Other than that, ABRA says it will not announce the neighborhoods it will be targeting.

Under this campaign, a task force comprised of various D.C. agencies (ABRA, Metropolitan Police Department, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) will conduct unannounced noise compliance sound checks at D.C. establishments that hold ABC licenses. The task force will operate from Thursday to Sunday from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m.

If an establishment is being too rowdy, they will get a written warning for a first offense. A second offense will result in a \$1,000 fine and a third violation would be \$2,000. If there are any more violations, the establishment would risk losing its liquor license, SALM reported.

ABRA sent a [letter](#) this week to area establishments informing of noise laws and this new task force.

But ABRA and local officials should be warned: The D.C. Nightlife Noise Coalition is a bit [skeptical](#) of the task force and will make sure the noise laws are being aggressively enforced.

"I don't know whether it's all show, or whether it will be a true enforcement, we will be watching and consulting," says Peck. "This isn't one grumpy old person wishing people wouldn't have fun. I want people to have a lot of fun, I just want businesses to comply with the law."