

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Ann Arbor Renter's Commission <RentersCommission@a2gov.org>
Subject: A renter's problems with a noisy tenant

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Hello,

I am writing to describe a difficult, on-going noise problem that I am having with a neighbor of mine. We are both tenants at the [REDACTED] Apartments in Ann Arbor. He lives in the apartment behind me, and we share a common wall that separates our kitchens. He is a [REDACTED] year old, quite intelligent man with a mild to moderate case of dementia.

Since last April, he has been making minor to very strong thumping noises on a daily basis. These last up to an hour. I have found that he responds-but only temporarily- if I tap on our common wall 2 or 3 times. In May, there was no noise all for the 2 plus weeks he was away after he suffered a fall on his porch.

I have been able to piece together some information as to the source and nature of the noise from several sources, including from 2 former neighbors who occupied an adjacent apartment together, Ann Arbor police officers who I've had to call in to help me deal with this neighbor's worst episodes of noise making, as well as my own experience of this problem.

Apparently, this neighbor makes certain movements with his hands or feet in his sleep, either while he is in bed or in his large recliner. Supposedly, he is not aware that he is producing these noises when, for example, his feet make contact with the floor.

Also, the 2 former neighbors and me have both been in touch with the Office Mgr. She refused to act on our complaints because in her words, "there is no proof" that the tenant is making the noises.

At this point, apparently, the tenant's daughter and husband are working on moving him to an assisted living situation. However, they are reluctant to do this because of the low quality of places that are available to people like him who lack the financial means to pay for better quality places. Meanwhile, the noise continues.

As a resident of Ann Arbor, I should be protected by the city ordinance against excessive and intrusive noise. I myself am [REDACTED] and increasingly vulnerable: However, apparently no one wants to prosecute a [REDACTED] year old man who is supposedly unaware that he is making the noises happen-at least at the time they are occurring.

I would appreciate your take on this problem. How can I obtain the protections against problematic noise that I need and that are guaranteed by the city noise ordinance, so I can stay in my apt.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Vander Lugt, Kristen

Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 2:01 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Spelling Error

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your email! Are you a resident of any of the City of Ann Arbor's housing commission properties? If so, some support services for you and your neighbor may be available.

Thank you,

Kristen

Kristen Vander Lugt, Office Manager (she/her/hers)

Ann Arbor City Clerk's Office | Guy C. Larcom City Hall | 301 E. Huron, 2nd Floor · Ann Arbor · MI · 48104

Direct dial (734) 794-6140 Ext. 41404

kvanderlugt@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Vander Lugt, Kristen <KVanderLugt@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: Spelling Error

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This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

No, I am not a resident at one of the Housing Commission Properties. I was wondering if we could get together to talk face to face or talk over the phone so I could convey the complete details of what is going on-How terrible my situation is and why. It's really a matter of both the noisy's neighbor's family's neglect and the irresponsibility of the office mgr. I am in the middle.

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From: Ann Arbor Renter's Commission
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Noise problem

[REDACTED]

I am working to identify the best resource for the situation you're referencing. I will provide an update as soon as I'm able.

Thanks!

Kristen

Kristen Vander Lugt, Office Manager (she/her/hers)

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From: Vander Lugt, Kristen

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 5:53 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Noise problem

Hi [REDACTED]

I apologize for the delay in my response. Unfortunately, the City's noise ordinance does not apply to situations like this. The Renters Commission generally recommends the following resources for individuals in your situation:

- The Dispute Resolution Center: Affordable, constructive, restorative, and healing approaches to conflict resolution for all people in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties of Michigan, including Landlord/Tenant Disputes. Phone: 734-794-2125 or 517-546-6007. Website: <https://thedisputeresolutioncenter.org/contact/>
- Disability Network: <https://dnwml.org/>

Thank you,

Kristen

Kristen Vander Lugt, Deputy Clerk - Operations (she/her/hers)

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From: Ann Arbor Renter's Commission

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 6:06 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Noise problem

Hi [REDACTED]

Please disregard my statement below about this situation and the City's noise ordinance. I was misunderstanding your situation, and after rereading your original email explaining the situation between you and your neighbor, I do believe the City's noise ordinance applies to this situation. Typically, the best resource for noise ordinance violations is calling the police, which I understand you've already done. Please provide an update, if possible, so I can provide the information to the Renters Commission at their next regular meeting. They may discuss the situation and come up with additional options for resources.

Thank you,

Kristen

Kristen Vander Lugt, Deputy Clerk - Operations (she/her/hers)

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