

**Legal Notice  
(Seal)  
Town of Reading**

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Reading:

Please take notice that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Reading will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 7:45 p.m. in the Conference Room, 16 Lowell Street, Reading, Massachusetts on approving a policy establishing an ad hoc Committee on Amplified Sound in Parks.

Copies of the proposed document regarding this topic are available in the Town Manager's office, 16 Lowell Street, Reading, MA, M-W-Thurs from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tues from 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and is attached to the hearing notice on the website at [www.readingma.gov](http://www.readingma.gov)

All interested parties are invited to attend the hearing, or may submit their comments in writing or by email prior to 6:00 p.m. on August 23, 2011 to [townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us)

By order of  
Peter I. Hechenbleikner  
Town Manager

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## **DRAFT**

### **Policy establishing an ad hoc Committee to Review Amplified Sound on Public Property under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen**

#### **Policy Establishing an ad hoc Committee to Review Amplified Sound on Public Property under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen**

There is hereby established an *ad hoc Committee to Review Amplified Sound on Public Property under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen* (the *ad hoc Committee*), which shall exist until December 31, 2011 or until such earlier date the *ad hoc Committee* may have completed its work. The terms of *ad hoc committee* members may be extended by the Board of Selectmen for up to an additional 3 months.

The *ad hoc Committee* shall consist of seven (7) residents of Reading for terms expiring December 31, 2011. In selecting the membership, an attempt will be made to fill the membership as follows:

- 1 member of the Board of Selectmen appointed by the Board of Selectmen;
- 1 member of the School Committee appointed by the School Committee
- 2 members of the Recreation Committee appointed by the Recreation Committee from among their members;
- 3 Residents at Large appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The residents at large shall not be members of the Recreation Committee or the Board of Selectmen, and at least one of the members at large shall live within 300 feet of one of the following Public Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Areas: Birch Meadow, Hunt Park, Longwood Place, Memorial Park, Sturgis Park, Symonds Way, Washington Park, or school grounds that are used for public recreation.

The *ad hoc Committee* shall perform the following activities related to the issue of the use of amplified sound in Public Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Areas under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen which:

1. Review and understand the scope of the charge to the *ad hoc committee*, and develop a work plan and schedule;
2. Review and understand “Section 4-14 Rules and Regulations Relating to Public Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Areas” of the Board of Selectmen Policies and Rules and regulations, and especially to Section 4.14.3 Rule 3: “**RULE 3.** *No person shall, on any public park, playground, recreation or other area under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Committee in the Town of Reading, solicit the acquaintance of or annoy another person or utter any profane, threatening abusive or indecent language or loud outcry; or solicit any subscription or contribution; or have possession of, or drink any alcoholic beverages as defined by Chapter 138, Section 1, of the General Laws; or play any game of chance, or have possession of any instrument of gambling; or make an oration or harangue or any political or other canvass; or preach or pray aloud; or do any obscene or indecent act; or play any musical instrument or use any*

- sound amplifier, except by written authority from the Recreation Committee or their designee.* (emphasis added);
3. Review and understand any regulations that exist with regard to use of amplified sound on school grounds;
  4. Reach out to Town Departments, Boards/Committees/Commissions, volunteer athletic organizations, and the community broadly (with particular emphasis on those who live in the proximity of public parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and school grounds) that may have an interest in this issue, and request their information and ideas;
  5. Develop draft amendments to “Section 4-14 of the Selectmen’s Policies - Rules and Regulations Relating to Public Parks, Playgrounds, and Recreation Areas”, and concurrent regulations for the School Department (if requested);
  6. If amplified sound is recommended to be allowed in Public Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation Areas, and School grounds with a permit from the Recreation Committee or School Administration as appropriate, develop draft regulations or other guidance to the Recreation Committee and School Administration on the circumstances and manner in which amplified sound is to be permitted;
  7. Prepare a preliminary report on the issue of “Amplified Sound on Public Property under the Jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen”, and solicit public input on the preliminary report;
  8. Submit the preliminary report to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee for their review and comment;
  9. Based on review with the Board of Selectmen and School Committee, finalize the report and submit it to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee;

Staff and Town Counsel will be assigned to work with the *ad hoc Committee* through the Town Manager. The *ad hoc Committee* will be considered to be part of the Town Managers Office for administrative purposes.

***Adopted***