



SPEAKING OF "DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY"(PEACE & QUIET)®

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – March 6, 2024

Interestingly, during earlier years, attempts were made in the state of Florida to pass laws that made it illegal to "blast" music from motor vehicles that is disturbing to others. Unfortunately, those efforts were unsuccessful because they were deemed as unconstitutional due to restricting one's rights to freedom of speech. In fact if anything and in reality, music blasting from a passing car radio was indeed grossly disturbing and destroyed the rights of others to enjoy "domestic peace and tranquility! Finally, during July 1, 2022, Florida state lawmakers "opened their ears", faced the reality of the matter, and imposed a new statute!

A summary of the pertinent details of the now applicable statute is as follows (quote):

Sec. 316.3045 Operation of radios or other mechanical or electronic soundmaking devices or instruments in vehicles;

- (1) A person operating or occupying a motor vehicle on a street or highway may not operate or amplify the sound produced by a radio, tape player, compact disc player, portable music or video player, cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, stereo, television, musical instrument, or other mechanical or electronic soundmaking device or instrument, which sound emanates from the motor vehicle, so that the sound is:
 - (a) Plainly audible at a distance of 25 feet or more from the motor vehicle; or
 - (b) Louder than necessary for the convenient hearing by persons inside the vehicle in areas adjoining private residences, churches, schools, or hospitals.

Just in case this new law is unknown or not taken seriously by those who continue to violate the law, these folks should familiarize themselves with the following penalties:

If an individual violates the new loud music law, it is a non-criminal traffic violation. The fine for violating the law is up to \$114. However, if a person is in violation of the loud music law surrounding a church, school, or hospital, they could be hit with a disturbing the peace or disorderly conduct misdemeanor. Under Florida Statute 877.03, disorderly conduct or "breach of peace" is considered a second-degree misdemeanor which carries the punishment of up to a \$500 fine or up to 60 days in jail.

Most of us who reside in the Kissimmee Bay Country Club subdivision experience (hear!) multiple violations of the current "noise blasting" law on a daily basis; thus, additional law enforcement is required and would be most welcome!..