OVERVIEW

Feedback was collected on a proposed code change that would amend the process by which residents can report dog barking. It would decrease the number of residents required to sign a petition from three (3) to two (2) when filing an initial complaint and would allow for any one of those individuals to appear in court if needed without requiring all three. It would also provide information on available mediation services for neighborhood disputes and eliminate the requirement for logging dates and times of barking occurrences.

The topic was posted on Tempe Forum from June 3 – 12, 2019. A total of 165 unduplicated survey responses were received.

MAP OF TEMPE SURVEY RESPONDENTS
SURVEY RESULTS

1. Do you support the proposed code text amendment?

![Pie chart showing percentages]

- Yes (69)
- No (93)
- Undecided (3)

Total responses:

2. Why or why not?

Yes Responses:

1. I have submitted a petition that was signed by three neighbors for the barking dogs problem. Nothing was done about it by the City of Tempe. I even had recordings of the dogs barking.
2. My daughter has just such a problem with neighbors dogs barking all day long.
3. There are too many neglected animals (dogs). Dogs bark for a reason, whether it be just bored or hot, need water, ANYTHING! A dog is in need of something and someone (owner or guardian) should pay attention. No animal should be left in a yard all day, alone.
4. Three people taking off work to go to court is unreasonable. One is sufficient. Two should cover the he said/she said or whatever gender you want to input. I think mediation should go before anyone gets dragged into court, etc. I also think that the neighbors making the complaints should talk to the person with the dogs first before even signing a complaint or petition. If that doesn’t work, THEN and only then should the City get involved. Habitual dog barking especially after 10 pm is a problem for a lot of folks. Hopefully we can get this resolved in a neighborly manner.
5. It is too difficult to find two collaborators on a barking dog complaint because people are loath to file them. It will be hard enough to find one other person, but possible if this is truly a nuisance situation.
6. It shouldn't be difficult to report noise ordinances. The only people against this would likely be people who have dogs who bark. A dog barking and playing in your yard is one thing, but leaving a dog out to bark for a long period of time is not okay. Being able to have another neighbor report the issue will help get it addressed.
7. Because we have a small barking dog next door to us! It drives us crazy. It barks until we yell and then they take it in. When this started about 2 years ago my husband went next door and made some suggestions; doggie door, bark collar, training lessons. No, they wouldn't do anything. Now, they won't even talk to us. We have had dogs for many years, thought the suggestions would help them, but no. We are beyond ourselves when it's leave the doors and windows open time here in Az. We had HOA send them a letter and that didn't really help.

8. Barking dogs continue to be a problem, especially during the daytime when other neighbors are not home so that they do not know that dogs are barking all day. This makes it difficult to gather signatures.

9. We have dogs barking in our neighborhood - morning and night. But Tempe's approach to require those concerned to band together is a cynical attempt to reduce their involvement in making the place a good to live in. Sure, Tempe requires more than one witness to the regulations being broken - will they now extend it to speeding, burglaries, racial discrimination? Require two or more witnesses? Ridiculous.

10. The existing code is a bit too onerous, and the proposed change will make it easier for neighbors to complain about barking dogs, which can be a real nuisance.

11. I do not feel people should be allowed to have their dogs annoy their neighbors. If they allow them to bark excessively, they are not good neighbors. I have known people who were very considerate and controlled their pets, so it can be done.

12. Two seems right - especially if say the people that hear the dog during the day are retired and other neighbors don't hear it because they are working etc

13. As the law is now before any changes it had provided no way to resolve a barking dog issue that was waking us up at night and disturbing us throughout the day for a couple of years. We tried, but without the three neighbors agreeing to participate, we could not proceed. The neighbors would verbally agree with us that the neighbor's dog was troublesome, but they did not want to go to court.

14. Dogs continually barking are the worst. I can’t sleep or enjoy the day/night/outside with constant barking. Dog owners should be held accountable.

15. Our neighbors dog barks constantly and we back to ASU research park so it is hard to get 3 signatures when there are only 2 bordering neighbors to sign.

16. Incessant barking dogs are not only a nuisance but also maybe a sign that the dog is being neglected.

17. Yes. If a dog is barking so much that it disturbing the peace, it shouldn’t even take two people to sign a petition, the one person should be able to just report it to the police. If the police receive multiple complaints from multiple parties over a period of time, then it is an ongoing problem that should be addressed. It shouldn’t take a group of neighbors to come together to sign a petition before anything can be done at all. A lot of people do not like to confront neighbors about anything.

18. Seems to be less “red tape” for residents to go through when needing to get help on barking dog issues.
19. If I have to tell a neighbor that their dog is a nuisance barker then it has already gone too far. We had neighbors who had 3 dogs that barked non-stop all day and night. It is sometimes difficult to find 3 households that are affected by the barking depending on where and when it happens. I have a problem with a rental but the house on the other side of me never hears anything because of the way their house is situated. The other problems is getting the city or the police to respond. Most people know that their dog is a problem or a potential problem if they are leaving them outside for long periods of time while they are gone or at work. My dog might bark a few times then I make her stop because it bothers me. I don’t understand why people just can't be considerate of their neighbors. If you can't be around to take care of a dog, then don’t have one.

20. We have had to suffer or many years from a neighbor's dog: it seemed to start around 10 pm and kept going until the small hours, intermittently. Apparently the neighbor was out at night and the dog was outside in the yard. One was unable to open windows because of the noise. We were told about having to get other signatures for anything to be done, so we never did and resented the whole unpleasant situation.

21. I fully understand the issue as I had the unfortunate experience of a next door neighbor who would not control or accept responsibility for his incessantly barking dogs. Eventually, after several court appearances, the court ordered him to find a new home for the dogs. It’s totally unacceptable, very distressing, and a form of animal abuse.

22. Many people are afraid to confront a neighbor regarding barking dogs. It would be easier to get two people to sign a complaint rather than three. Also only requiring one of the complainants to appear in court would also be easier with work schedules etc.

23. Neighbors are often worried about getting into issues with other neighbors.

24. We have had trouble with five large aggressive barking dogs across the alley from us for years and because we haven't had a third complaint, nothing has ever been done. The dogs are a nuisance, barking all hours of the night... and they frequently escape. I have my husband take the trash out because they scare me. We've had to purchase white noise machines and fans to block out the noise. It's ridiculous that code currently required 3 households to complain. The city is quicker to do something about some stupid overgrown weeds in an alley than they are about aggressive, obnoxious barking dogs. PLEASE pass this ordinance.

25. Living next to noise whether it be a dog or rude neighbors, it generally affects only one or two houses, so the bar should be set low so the bordering houses can have peace. Current noise policies don't seem to give the police much support. Make it count.

26. Seems reasonable. A barking problem usually affects the next-door neighbors on either side. If these two households are being disturbed, they should not have to search for a third to make a complaint.

27. It seems the proposed code text amendment makes the process easier.

28. I currently live next to four barking chihuahuas and have called the non-emergency line several times to report a noise ordinance issue with zero help. It’s sad for the dogs and it’s sad for all of the people who have to hear it. We need reform for noise violations in Tempe.
29. A house is typically only bordered closely on two sides to another property. Therefore it should only require TWO independent responses to a noise nuisance created by a dog. I love dogs but the “furry babies” should not be allowed to bark uncontrollably. If you are going to be a dog owner and love your dog, take care of it. A well trained dog is a well behaved animal and good neighbor.

30. I work from home and have to listen to barking dogs all day. Often they are loud enough that my clients can hear the noise over the phone! Getting 3 people to sign a complaint and agree to go to court is just too difficult. 2 signatures would be easier but would prevent abuse of the process. Allowing 1 person to go to court smooths out the process too. I know dogs bark naturally. I had a beagle that howled with every fire truck! But barking for hours is not normal, is not “protecting their owner” and is not considerate of their neighbors. We live in an urban environment. Courtesy is a key component.

31. Too often people will take too long time to act on a problem even though they are frustrated with barking dogs. This change will help stop the excessive barking of some dogs. It is natural for dogs to bark but some do it none stop for hours, it can be day or night. With people needing sleep anytime of day or just wanting to enjoy a peaceful day dog owners need to be aware if their pet is being overly disruptive. There needs to be a quick response to these kinds of situations and by having 2 people report instead of 3 it can help reduce the problem.

32. Seems reasonable

33. Residents should have the right to quiet enjoyment. A barking, dog especially at night or in close spaces, is an intrusion into the right of residents to enjoy their living space.

34. Makes it easier

35. Barking Dog problem is not controlled at all. I don't think it should be two signatures. I think that it should be a complaint, and the reporters named to be private. At this time it is public, so the person that you signed against can see who did it. Which leads to safety issues. Neighbors are afraid to report!

36. Dog barking is a nuisance for even one person.

37. We have two neighbors whose dogs consistently bark all day. I work from home, so I have to listen to it.

38. Barking dogs and irresponsible owners have become a near epidemic. One only needs to read the comments when someone on Nextdoor complains about a barking dog. People actually defend allowing their dogs to bark for hours on end justifying it by saying it “lets them know when someone is around.” People refuse to police their own behavior, so legal action must be made easier for those of us who have spent long, sleepless nights listening to a dog howl all night.

39. I have a neighbor with a loud barking dog, 5:30 a.m. , 9:30 pm, but being a participant on Nextdoor gives me insight into how mean spirited and crazy seemingly normal people can be. I like the neighbors with the dog and don't want to round up 3 other neighbors to complain.

40. These days, neighbors don’t necessarily know or speak to each other regularly. An annoying barking dog is what it is, and shouldn't require more than 2 residents to identify & report it.
41. I think that anyone who lets your animal make noises outside for everyone to hear for 1 hour or more straight, more than twice a week should definitely be fined. Anyone who has animals outside past the noise ordinance curfew animals should obey the law as well. However having a guard dog is more than welcome but guard dogs do not bark constantly nonstop they only bark to alert their owner and it is the owners job to check why the dog is barking and to take proper measurements to secure the property like calling 911. A security dog does not bark 247 or all night long to keep stranger off the property and it is uncalled for and not fair to neighbors. I think there should be a measurement of noise that happens for something to be signed to protest or convict the owner. My dog only barks if someone is on my property or walking through the alley. He only barks a couple times and doesn't bark for any other reason or continuously. People need to be responsible for their animals. Also there should be law about leaving animals outside with no water in the summer. I had a neighbor who had a dog that would whine because it was left outside in the heat with no water. Addressing these kind of issues can prevent noise happening from animals being neglected.

42. I live next door to dog that bark uncontrollably. I'm am the only neighbor affected so the change would not change my situation but if a person refuses to control their pet, they should be punished until they do.

43. Anything that helps people pay attention to and bring in their barking dogs!

44. Years ago we had issues with barking dogs, a neighbor's dog barked for hours at night. Discussions with the neighbor were unproductive and we called Tempe PD who came out and had a discussion with the owner. Barking ceased to be a problem. It was quick, simple and to the point, no need to have additional neighbors sign petitions, go to court, etc. The simpler the process the better in my opinion.

45. There are too many people who leave their dogs out, or with access to the outside, and have no control over their barking. If they aren't home, they don't care, and a lot of the time even if they are home they don't care. Those of us who are retired or work from home are stuck with listening to the dogs, sometimes all day long. Limiting the number of people required to a petition to 2, and only one of them to go to court, is a much more realistic approach. Pet owners (I am one,) need to be held responsible for their pets and respect their neighbors. Thank you.

46. Occasional barking is understandable. The continuous barking is nerve racking and indicates the dog is distressed in some way; I think some people are deaf. I was unable to get 3 people to sign a complaint, they were afraid of retaliation, plus the fact they aren't home during the day. I did leave the neighbor with the barking dog a note regarding the continual barking for an hour or 2 at a time with the concern that the dog was obviously not happy, they finally moved. Now if we could only figure out what to do about jet noise.

47. A barking problem usually affects the next-door neighbors on either side. If these two households are being disturbed, they should not have to search for a third to make a complaint.

48. I experience the annoyance of barking dogs nearly every single day.

49. The current process makes it far too difficult to mitigate a barking dog situation.
50. Barking dogs are a noise nuisance that needs to be curtailed. Reducing the number of people required to file a complaint will enhance the process to eliminate barking dogs.

51. When neighbors leave dogs out during the day that bark all day long, the majority of neighbors that leave for work during the day do not know there is a problem. The people that work from home or sleep during the day are the ones affected and they are in the minority. Reducing the number of people need to file a complaint would help out.

52. We have a problem in our neighborhood with dog barking, sometimes at all hours of the day and night. Anything to make it easier for neighbors to find a solution to problem nuisance barking should be supported.

53. Usually it is only the houses on both sides of the barking dog(s) which will actually be annoyed especially if you’re sitting in your backyard with friends or family and they can’t even hear you above the noise and the offending owners will not control the barking.

54. Make it more difficult for owners of barking dogs to deal with the reality of their poor training - don’t make it difficult on neighbors who have to listen to it and deal with it.

55. I don’t think you need more than two complaints about a 3rd neighbor’s barking dog.

56. I would however require only ONE signatory willing to go to court. With the very percentage of households in Tempe with dogs and people’s unwillingness to complain about their neighbors, requiring two signatures means that no complaints are filed and the dogs simply bark and bark and bark. Statistics have proven that dogs that are allowed to bark continuously become increasingly aggressive, leading to more incidents of dog bites.

57. I live and own property in Tempe. Because Tempe is a college town, there are many amateur pet owners who only care for the dogs while they’re young and cute. Only to neglect them when these dogs lose their cuteness and become full adults that need proper attention and significantly more care.

58. It may hold people more accountable for their own pets behavior

No Responses:

1. I have dogs and lived near people without them that have no tolerance for occasional barking while not thinking twice about their kids screaming or playing music outside without considering whether it disturbs the neighbors. I find landscape blower sound very disturbing but don't get to dictate they not use them. The volume requirement for man-made noises is very high compared to a couple of dogs that are barking for about 10-minutes during play. If it’s a nuisance, everyone would be noticing, not only those that would like to be able to pick and chose the type of sound outside. (PS tried to log in, create an account and reset pw but got errors on all three)

2. So, one dispute with one neighbor who may or may not be a homeowner, and you are dragged into almost litigation scenario?

3. The current ordinance is fine the way it is currently written. I see no reason to tie up our city resources and court rooms with issues that neighbors should be able to address and deal with themselves.
4. My neighbors left Tempe because another neighbor was always causing a disturbance, causing their dogs to bark. The root cause of the issue was never addressed (the disturbance); the change would cause more people to report barking dogs, which is not warranted - the three nearby households is already in place and sufficient.

5. There are a couple reasons this could be a problematic amendment making this unfair for the dog owner. 1) If owner is not home during the day they're not able to correct the situation without locking the dog inside for 8+ hours, which is unfair to the animal 2) What is considered excessive barking to one person is reasonable to another therefore not everyone in the city will be held to the same standards depending on who their neighbors are 3) Consideration for what is causing the dog to bark should be accounted for. If a neighbor has constant visitors throughout the day or an indoor/outdoor cat that routinely jumps into the dog’s yard or walks across the wall, etc. it’s acceptable for the dog to alert to the disturbance whenever, if however frequent, the occasion arises. If anything, I think it’s more than reasonable to put a time constraint on "barking hours". If after 10pm and the issue is habitual and can be verified by 2 or more neighbors, seems within bounds to file a complaint. Also, complaints should be made to an HOA first whenever applicable.

6. I think its fine to gwt several signatures un case theres neighbors who are just dog haters and not B issue.

7. Too easy for HOAs or unreasonable people to make accusations without due process. A dog cpuld just be doing its job by alerting owner of potential intruder. Without dates and tomes being required and accuser being present the dog owner has no way to build a fair and proper defense. Keep the law as it stands and let neighbors be neighborly....communicate with each other.

8. Makes it too easy for neighbors with a personal beef to make life difficult for someone else with little or no evidence to back it up.

9. Dogs bark for a variety of reasons. Unless the dog is parking due to unsafe reasons court should be avoided

10. Unnecessary issue. Sound ordinance already in place. Sun-Thur 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. Fri - Sat 7:00 am to 12:00 pm. Start enforcing law.

11. I am especially opposed to the idea that all accusers wouldn't be in court. Anyone accused should be able to face their accusers, and anyone who is so inclined to oppose a neighbor should have the obligation to spend some time and go or court.

12. Three is not that many people.

13. My dog barks because there are homeless ppl living in the alley. They are an alarm system, they bark due to something or someone that’s....there job.

14. Just too easy for one person to find just one other person to file a complaint whether it’s a barking dog, a neighbor’s car or anything else they want to complain about.

15. My dogs let me know what is going on around my house. As a responsible dog owner, when my dogs are out side to play or relieve themselves and start barking I find out what it is and bring them inside. Noisy partying neighbors and those that set off fireworks at all hours not just on holidays cause dogs to bark. My dogs bark for a reason, the non- responsible dog owner is the problem not the dog.
16. I believe three signatures would be appropriate. This would prevent abuse, and false accusations. In situations as these, it is too easy to be guilty until proven innocent.

17. Dogs bark when they communicate. Requiring 3 neighbors to report is not unreasonable.

18. Two is too limited.

19. Dogs barked for no apparent reason and if it is between 9 and 9 why would anyone care. I think all neighbors around the barking dog should sign not just two or three people

20. Requiring complaints from three people from separate households is not unreasonable.

21. The reason to have dogs for me is protection of property and self. I get my dogs in when they bark too much. I block them in at night. The problem is the partying neighbors around me. The dogs bark when the hollering and screaming is loud. I call non emergency and it goes on until 3am sometimes, and I have to work the next day. So the dogs are penalized for crazy partying neighbors. Three unrelated neighbor complaints is more than fair. I've had issues at my house on Alameda with neighbors making complaints about my yard over and over because they have a grudge or have nothing better to do with their time. I've even told Code Enforcement they shouldn't be allowed to harass. I've always taken care of the yards. The problem is getting landscaping people to call back. Even the three companies listed on City of Tempe site never called me back. This is how it would be if the dog ordinance were changed. Three is fair!

22. Many others have made great arguments against this and I agree...dogs alert us to possible issues, they scare away feral cats, barking is what they do, shelters are already over crowded, vicious people like to abuse ordinances, etc. My dogs get excited when I play with them in the yard and they bark. People constantly go down the alley (randos, homeless, illegal dumpers, etc.) and my dogs alert us, which is good since we've been robbed before. I don't want the possibility of 2 people getting my dogs removed/killed because they have no life and hate the world. I'm a responsible dog owner but that wouldn't make a difference if this is changed. Don't waste taxpayer dollars on this - address the feral cat and homeless issues instead (ps - increased security at parks hasn't really helped). Those are what has made Tempe worse in the last several years, not dog barking.

23. Two households makes it too easy for disgruntled neighbors to gang up on a neighbor. Proof of barking must be shown in order to weed out general animosity towards a neighbor.

24. This is the kind of thing that allows for petty, interpersonal problems to be played out in court. Three is not a high bar if there is a real problem. This sounds like it will cause more problems than it will solve.

25. Because sometimes neighbors just complain or they don't like you and they try to get back at you. If three neighbors find it to be a problem then it's a problem. Perhaps Tempe should do something about the homeless and the alleys that's half the reason my dog barks. They are supposed to bark when there is danger near

26. There is nothing wrong with the current code.
27. Dogs, feral cats and plane noise are a non-issue. Pass an ordinance that doesn't allow frats and sororities in our neighborhoods west of the ASU campus. That is the bigger problem. We dread August and football season because of their massive and loud parties. Not to mention that they leave their trash everywhere and damage private property in our front yards. These sororities and fraternities are allowed to get away with anything and everything. Meanwhile typical residents can't even host neighborhood gatherings without getting shut down. Barking dogs are not a big issue. This ordinance will allow nosey neighbors to file baseless complaints. Dog barking acts as a deterrent for possible break ins and is not that big of a nuisance compared to the ragers the frats host. We've had to call the police because there were hundreds of people coming and going from a party about a year ago. It took the police about an hour to clear the area. The focus shouldn't be on dogs, cats and plane noise.

28. I think you need to have at least 3 people who are upset with a neighbor's dogs. Also keeping a log for several days makes sense. It could be a temporary issue. I do like having mediation before anything serious occurs.

29. I am all for concerned citizens trying to make their city a better place, but this borders on ridiculous. Surely there must be more important problems we could devote our time and efforts towards.

30. The text as written is already vague about the definition of frequent and habitual. This would only make it easier for a feuding neighbor to become a nuisance to the dog's owner by getting fewer people who may have a legitimate gripe. In other words, government intervention in these types of neighborhood issues should only trigger in demonstrably proven cases. If I am a complainant, I would prefer the requirement be there or more so as to assure all involved that the violation is real and true and not merely a dispute about other things that gets wrapped in a bogus dog bark violation.

31. I have dogs to protect my home and there are constantly people in the alley at all hours. I have never had a complaint, but do not feel owners should be punished for things beyond their control.

32. I agree strongly with the arguments articulated in this forum against the proposed change.

33. I prefer the 3 neighbor over 2.

34. I have dogs that bark although no one has complained. They are my protection and I try to attend to it immediately. If it is continuous or a dog is barking because of neglect then yes, something should be done. I want the homeless camp on the tracks to know I have alert dogs.

35. Two is too few, three complaints/people are just fine

36. I believe this could be used to harass owners of dog owners especially if the burden of proof is so low.

37. If it is a valid complaint then they should be able to get 3 signatures. Lowering it to 2 makes it that much easier for people to register invalid complaints which unfortunately does happen.

38. No need for stricter rules. Dogs will bark, and if they are being left out you should be able to get 2 additional neighbors to sign with the existing process.

39. Dogs bark. When the trash trucks come in the alley they bark. We have dogs for the love of them but also for protecting our property.
40. Reducing the requirement to two households could lead to abuse of the system to settle petty disputes

41. Animals bark. If we get the cops called every time a dog barks, what will happen? Animals are animals and I will not put a shock collar on an animal

42. I do not support the code amendment. This makes it easier for people to file complaints against dogs for doing what they do. Bark at strangers and protect their owners. My dogs bark when other dogs bark. They bark when intruders are in the alley. How do you know the people filing complaints aren’t antagonizing the dogs? How do you know the dogs are actually barking? Is it being recorded? How do you know the complaint filer isn’t antagonizing the dogs or doesn’t have a 3rd party antagonizing dogs in order to file complaints? This only serves people who are home all day and have nothing better to do with their time then complain about noise from dogs or jets because they are bored. My dogs have access to my yard with a dog door. They can go outside whenever they want. I will not keep my dogs confined to my house all day to make some bored retiree happy. All names of the people filing complaints should be made public, and if a homeowner has to go to court to defend against harassing complaints - the people who complained should be fined and owe compensation to the dog owner for the complaint when it is tossed out. Only one person needs to go to court? That retiree has nothing to lose, where as we have to lose an entire days pay or pay a fine. This is unfair.

43. We’ve been the "set up" neighbor for bogus complaints. This neighbor complained about our dog only for us to find out that he was standing outside our wire fence in full view of the dog for 30-40 minutes at a time to gain others’ complaints when we weren’t home. Our dog barks when other dogs around us are barking. They’re dogs doing their job. She barks whenever someone comes up to the house that’s not one of us. She’s doing her job. Plus, the local mailbox is right outside our fence. She notices whenever someone stops by to get their mail when she’s outside. If the mailboxes are placed by someone’s yards like this, you have allow for dogs to respond then others try to get their mail. (We never had this happen when we lived in a regular neighborhood where you have a mailbox.)

44. I think it should be kept at three. If the noise is truly a nuisance, that number ensures some protection for owners who may simply be targeted by a couple of neighbors. Since only one is required in court, that helps those complaining. I do not have dogs so this is not a self serving decision on my part.

45. While I understand this can be a nuisance, until we deal with the feral cat issues, we cannot eliminate 1 citizen and it should remain as 3. Feral cats are walking-mating on top of block wall fences which naturally a dog will bark. Plus I strongly believe a barking dog alerts you that a possible burglar/thief or other such threats could be happening. I live where there is an alley and there are so many people in the middle of the night going down the alley. On my nextdoor app, a burglar put a ladder up against the wall to break into a home. Dogs are a deterrent. My house was almost broken into and the Tempe PD officer said my dog inside the house help prevented it. I STRONGLY disagree with this code change

46. Two neighbors may gang up in neighbor. I like the current rule of three if it is truly a problem three should be required to report
47. My dog protects our property better than cops.
48. I feel like the existing requirement of needing 3 people to sign is reasonable. I "would" support a change allowing only 1 of the 3 to appear in court vs. requiring all 3, but that change wasn't mentioned in the Proposed Ordinance text. It only appeared in the introduction.
49. The proposed changes take away any of the means to prove there actually is a problem with excessive barking. If it is truly enough of an issue that a complaint needs filed then getting 3 people to agree and sign is a piece of cake. Otherwise it is opening a door for all sorts of hostility between neighbors. We need to work on bringing the communities back to when neighbors looked out for one another. Not to mention the influx of dogs ending up in shelters that are already filled to capacity. The proposed changes are wrong on all levels.
50. I see no reason to change the ordinance. It seems to be fair and reasonable.
51. It's better if neighbors communicate directly with each other to work out issues instead of involving the government.
52. I think that if you have 3 people from the same area to agree there is a problem, it is more substantial than 2. I think people complain too much and we shouldn't let them rule our world. If a complaint is legitimate, there should be 3 people that agree.
53. Feels like targeting
54. I think the change to two people is fine, but they need to record the dates and times to make sure the right dog is being reported.
55. Dogs are going to bark and sometimes the person complaining about the barking causes the barking by noises or looking over the fence into the yard where the dog is.
56. It is already too easy for one disgruntled neighbor to lodge a complaint against normal dog barking, to lower the standards would make it easier for people who have unrealistic expectations to create problems for another who is a responsible owner. Three signatures and video taped or written documentation should be the very minimum.
57. I propose you keep it at 3 signatures. I think it is fair and it forces the person filing the complaint to seek others. In the process the person with the issue has an opportunity to speak to their neighbors and perhaps it is something the neighbors can handle on their own by talking to each other and working things out amicably. By changing it to two signatures, I think you miss an opportunity to seek other minds, other opinions, additional facts.
58. We already have too many code violations as it is. I agree with someone else's comment that "Barking dogs can be a problem, but so can neighbors who can be vicious in reporting supposed incidents." Seems like some disgruntled neighbors are always filing complaints, taking photos for reports, speaking angrily at city council meetings, and policing the city.
59. Most dogs in the neighborhood are not left unattended for long periods of time. Dogs in the neighborhood generally bark at large trucks or people passing by who come onto the property. Continuous barking is not an issue where we live currently.
60. We already have too many code violations as it is.
61. Three complaints gives better feedback. Actually, it seems four would be preference.
62. Most dogs do not continuously bark in our neighborhood. Dogs generally bark when large trucks drive past. Some dogs bark at slamming car doors. Other dogs bark because people or another animal steps onto the property. Current problem are people who walk their dog down the alley way without a leash and allow their animal to sniff at every gate as they walk down the alley. This causes every single dog who is outside to bark and howl until the owner of the dog walks on down the alley. This same guy comes almost every morning and just causes the neighborhood dogs to bark for like 5 minutes. Once he leaves the barking stops. Seems like the guy walking in the alley way with out his dog on a leash should have to go to court...maybe take a look at that problem as well.

63. We have too many code violations already.
64. Because dogs are family. If people don't like hearing them, they should move to an area of the world with no noise. I recommend in the middle of the Sierra desert.
65. It should be stipulated that the 3 people must be from different households and there should be a benchmark of what length of barking is acceptable. Dogs bark, especially on trash and recycling pickup days or when there are fireworks.
66. There needs to be a stipulation about the people signing the petition being from different households. There should be some evidence of mediation with those signing the petition and the dog owner.
67. The current ordinance is appropriate.
68. There should be more than two witnesses to complain upon dog barking. Proof of time logs should be provided as well.
69. I’m glad my dogs bark - it’s usually at people &/or kids that are walking in the alley. I want my dogs to bark at them - that's their job. To protect our homes. Our county already has a problem at our shelters. Too many people having to do owner surrenders. Please do not give them one more excuse to have to get rid of their dogs. This is a sure way to get more dogs put down at our local county rescues. If you haven't noticed they are filled to capacity & killing dogs daily.
70. This is a nonissue in my mind, if there is truly a problem it shouldn't be difficult for 3 households to come together and come to an agreement about it. If that's not possible to me it sounds like more of a disagreement between neighbors and not something that city code should over legislate.
71. The three requied to support filing a petetion is sufficient. I was a resident in the College park area for 24 years. Only once was there an animal noise complaint there. I did not need to address matter in court.
72. I think three people is a perfectly acceptable number of signatures. that would imply that all surrounding neighbors are annoyed/frustrated (each side and back). I would however, encourage anyone who gets dinged with a complaint to be provided resources to help curb the barking. Far too many animals end up in already full county shelters due to issues like this where perhaps the family needs some low cost training options.
73. A dog barks. This is the voice to keep Away criminals from your property. If the dog is been the collected that is a completely different story. If a dog barks at 2 AM there is something wrong and your neighbor should be happy that the animal is hopefully scary and a possible break-in at your residence.
74. It's better to have three independent neighbors report it, as it is too easy for one disgruntled person to get one other neighbor to report something than to get two additional neighbors (who might not care, otherwise). Also, I think they SHOULD have to keep a log of what time and day the barking occurs and for how long. Maybe videotape it, that's easy enough to do on a smart phone. Otherwise, they could just be making it up. I have a neighbor who hates dogs so much that he has done the following over the years: 1) Let a stray dog we were holding for the owner out of our back yard through the side gate when we weren't home. The dog was never found again (as far as I know). 2) Thrown poison in dog treats over the back yard fence of a neighbor who wasn't even directly across the street from him. 3) Put anonymous, nasty notes on at least three neighbors' doorsteps calling them white trash and other names because their dogs bark. One of these neighbors lives about five houses away from him, down a different street. 4) Along with one anonymous, hateful note, he left a shock collar for the neighbors' dog, two doors away from him. 5) Sworn like a sailor at dogs that bark just once or a few times. I'm not talking about dogs that bark continuously; he can't even stand normal, occasional dog barking. We have him on home security video doing these things for at least two of the instances listed.

75. Training dogs to not bark at certain things takes time. Neighbors who don't take the time to communicate with the owners don't deserve to have it easy. Obviously training a dog will take time! Dogs are part of families and if neighbors go straight to reporting the nuisance, they will never understand what a dog means to a family. Anyone can say a dog is disrupting the peace. How will they prove it without logging the times or videos, which is required as of now. The family can't be at home 24/7 to ensure the dog doesn't bark. It's silly to involve government when the conflict is between neighbors. That dog will continue to live for years to come, so instead of going straight to the government, the two parties should come together to an agreement. Maybe they can simply exchange phone numbers, and if the dog is barking uncontrollably, the solution is simple. Text the owner, "Hey your dog is barking again and it's keeping me from doing ...". Bring the dog inside for a while and determine what the cause was for the barking so the owner can sense when he needs to bring the dog in again. Save money, owner time, neighbors time and police time.

76. Getting government involved in neighborhood disputes over dogs barking will increase the number of homeless dogs, dogs in shelters, and dogs being euthanized. People who are forced to keep their dogs from participating in natural behaviors are often not educated enough in animal behavior to correct the behavior. Unless the Tempe government is going to provide free and low cost education for the owners and behavior training for the animal, it is unfair to impose these rules on regular people.

77. A few years ago, we received a notice about our dog(s) barking. We never found out who submitted the complaint and no one ever said anything. I am always fearful of a second offense and no recourse to defend ourselves. For reference, we have a Scotty and a Westie. The neighbors around us also have multiple dogs, all much bigger (louder) breeds. I suspect our neighbors were bullying us. This amendment would foster neighborly disputes such as this.
78. Part of the job of a dog is to alert when people approach the property. When they bark at passersby, they’re doing their job. Yes, dogs left out all day can be problematic both for neighborhood peace and for the health of the animals. The current requirements adequately ensure that a couple of hypersensitive neighbors can’t enforce the ordinance against their neighbors. Decreasing the number of neighbors required to trigger the Ordinance will doubtless increase the volume of individual voices against their neighbors in our city court at a cost of time and lost work productivity of ordinary dog owners.

79. Dogs will bark, it is inevitable. The idea we need to get local government more involved is ridiculous. Let people work these things out. If it only takes two nutjobs to sign then it’s going to be abused and we’re going to have unintended consequences.

80. There are already noise ordinances and this is just overkill. It will also give people an excuse to harass a neighbor they don’t get along with about a dog barking. Tempe Police and the City of Tempe should rely on common sense and existing laws rather than creating more bureaucracy.

81. If the noise is truly an issue to the neighborhood and not just a couple of individuals that have an axe to grind with a particular neighbor then the already low # of 3 people shouldn’t be an issue.

Undecided Responses:

1. Dogs near me just bark as a warning and protection and I understand that. There is a neighbor about 5 houses away that has an inside/outside bird area and I hear their birds more often then I hear dogs barking

2. I like that there only needs to be 2 parties to file a complaint but I think they should still have to log dates and times of occurrences as proof or it will open the potential for claims to be made based on one instance and can become one person’s word against another. I think proof should be required

3. Barking dogs can be a problem, but so can neighbors who can be vicious in reporting supposed incidents.