



Report Number: EC2022-1098

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2022 September 29

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Addressing Noisy Vehicles Through Calgary Traffic Bylaw Enforcement**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Walcott and Councillor McLean**

### WHEREAS...

- Communities across Calgary have reported for years that their quality of life is negatively impacted by noise emitted from vehicles in residential neighbourhoods and commercial districts;<sup>1</sup>
- The Calgary Traffic Bylaw (26M96) prohibits “objectionable noise” from vehicles on streets (Sections 2(1)(y.1), 51.1, as enabled by Section 13(1)(g) of the *Traffic Safety Act*). “Objectionable noise” is defined in the Bylaw as any sound caused by or emanating from a motor vehicle that annoys or disturbs humans or endangers the health and safety of humans and includes noise measured at 96 decibels or more as measured by a sound pressure level meter at any point of reception;
- Stunting and unauthorized racing are prohibited by the *Traffic Safety Act* (Section 115(2)(c) and (e));
- The *Vehicle Equipment Regulation* under the *Traffic Safety Act* prohibits engine exhaust gases from producing excessive noise (Section 61(1, 2, 3,4));
- Presently, Calgary’s Community Peace Officers are not empowered to perform traffic stops needed to enforce vehicle noise laws and bylaws;

### AND WHEREAS...

- Other Alberta municipalities have precise guidelines for measuring vehicle noise<sup>2</sup> and enforcing relevant noise bylaws;
- Calgary’s Community Peace Officers are expected to be upgraded to Peace Officer Level 1 as of early 2023,<sup>3</sup> a first step in enabling Peace Officers to perform traffic stops;

### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ...

- That Council direct Administration to return to Council in Q2 2023 with a scoping report including:
  - An overview of potential bylaw changes that could increase the ability of enforcement authorities to enforce laws and bylaws addressing vehicle noise;
  - An overview of potential changes to the structure of fines and penalties related to vehicle noise that could aid in deterring vehicle noise;

<sup>1</sup> [Beltline residents fear they're losing the noise battle in Calgary's core | CTV News \(2022\)](#); [Frustrated residents continue to call for change to 17th Avenue S.W. noise pollution | CTV News \(2021\)](#); [‘Terribly annoying’: Calgarians say vehicle noise pollution reaching deafening levels | CTV News \(2020\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Edmonton’s [Bylaw 14600 – Community Standards Bylaw](#) (Sections 18-23) specifies measuring sound at 50 centimeters from exhaust outlets; Red Deer’s [Community Standards Bylaw 3669/2021](#) (Section 5.1) specifies measuring sound 50 centimeters or further from the exhaust outlet and the use of a Sound Level Meter.

<sup>3</sup> A result of the [Lazenby Inquiry](#).

- A workplan and budget request, including equipment, training, and staffing requests as necessary, to support the expansion of traffic stop enforcement efforts to include Calgary's Community Peace Officers;
- That Council direct Administration to initiate:
  - Discussions to acquire the relevant permissions from law enforcement and the Government of Alberta to authorize Calgary's Community Peace Officers to perform traffic stops;
  - Discussions with the Calgary Police Service to gauge the viability of a joint pilot campaign between Calgary's Community Peace Officers and the Calgary Police Service regarding vehicle noise enforcement to potentially be launched in the Summer of 2023;
- That Council direct Administration to return to Council in Q1 2024 with:
  - A report summarizing progress made towards improving vehicle noise enforcement;
  - A review of automated systems being piloted in other jurisdictions,<sup>4</sup> and the technical and legal viability of their applicability in Calgary.

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<sup>4</sup> [Bruitparif dévoile son prototype de radar sonore à visée de contrôle-sanction](#); [Agenda Item History - 2021.MM36.46 \(toronto.ca\)](#); [Noise camera company explains tech ahead of Knoxville test](#)