



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

KATE STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 6, 2024

HB 212 - Vehicle Laws - Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems - Authorization
Position: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, members of the E&T committee, I am writing in support of HB 212 to authorize Montgomery, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties to take action to address excessive noise from modified vehicle exhaust systems.

The noise from these modified exhaust systems has been immensely disturbing to residents in numerous areas of my district, and detrimental to our community's quality of life. While modified exhaust systems are already illegal, it can be challenging and unsafe to pursue noisy vehicles traveling at high speeds, and the community demand for this type of enforcement often exceeds the county's current enforcement capacity.

Other jurisdictions such as New York, NY, Miami, FL, and London, England have implemented similar technologies to these systems, which have served as strong disincentives to use of modified exhaust and dangerous street racing. The CDC indicates that sustained loud noise may be linked to increased risk of heart disease and elevated blood pressure, as well as sleep disruption and hearing loss. There are limitations to local regulatory approaches for modified exhausts, particularly given residents may make the modifications themselves and not at an auto shop or professional mechanic, and may order parts online.

This legislation would authorize these three counties to examine costs, benefits, implementation challenges, and geographic placement of "noise cameras" or other noise monitoring systems just as counties already have rules governing placement of automated speed and red light enforcement cameras. There are similar appeals processes for citations issued through use of these systems as to those issued through automated speed and red light enforcement systems. Please support this vital legislation to enhance residents' quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Stewart".

Kate Stewart
Councilmember, District 4
Vice President, Montgomery County Council