



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville**  
**HB 1333 – Motor Vehicles – Modified Vehicle Exhaust System – Penalties**  
**SUPPORT**

The Rockville Mayor and Council thank Chairman Barve and the members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 1333. We are thankful to Delegate Lehman for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council strongly support this legislation. As you consider the merits of this legislation, we urge the Committee to provide HB 1333 with a favorable report and forward it to the House floor for a vote.

HB 1333 increases the fines for modified exhaust systems and any other noise abatement devices in a motor vehicle. The penalty for a first violation is a \$200 fine, \$300 for the second, and \$400 for the third and subsequent violations. HB 1333 also requires the issuance of a repair order from the police officer that observes the vehicle that is in violation.

Excessive loud noise emitted from cars with modified exhaust systems is a major problem in Rockville that emerged during the pandemic. Our residents are very concerned about these frequent loud noises, which disturb our neighborhoods. The excessive noise is often accompanied with dangerous driving habits. Our Police Department is forced to devote more resources for traffic enforcement, while balancing other essential public safety needs. We support the stronger penalties in HB 1333, which are necessary to protect the community from this public safety issue.

The Rockville City Police have diligently enforced excessive noise emitted from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems. Since the fall of 2020, they have issued hundreds of enforcement actions, including citations, warnings, and Safety and Equipment Repair Orders. Additionally, in concert with Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and the Maryland Transportation Authority Police Departments, they are collaborating to find solutions and respond to this challenging issue, which crosses jurisdictional borders.

HB 1333 is smart public policy that would equip officers with additional enforcement tools to address this issue and provide relief to our residents. We ask for your support for this legislation.