



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 229 – Vehicle Laws – Noise Abatement Monitoring Systems –
Authorization, Use, and Penalties
SUPPORT

The Mayor and Council of Rockville thank Chair Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to share the City’s comments on SB 229. We are thankful to Senator Beidle for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council unanimously support SB 229 – authorizing local governments to install noise monitoring systems on roadways. Since the beginning of the pandemic, excessive noise from vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems has plagued our cities and towns – frightening those on sidewalks, in nearby cars, and even those just simply in the privacy of their own homes.

We strongly support the provisions of SB 229 for the following reasons:

- This legislation would help address the serious concerns of our residents regarding excessive noise disruptions.
- SB 229 would broadly expand the capability of the City Police to address this public nuisance as there aren’t enough police patrols in the City and Montgomery County to respond to noise violations through traffic enforcement.
- We saw a dramatic and positive change in driver behavior when speed and red-light cameras were installed in Rockville – and SB 229 has the potential to have a similar impact by providing an incentive for drivers to comply with laws governing noise violations.

Automated noise monitoring systems are a promising new tool that could dramatically reduce noise pollution, excessive noise violations, and restore the peace and quiet for those enjoying a walk, a bike ride, or working from home. For these reasons – we urge the Committee to provide SB 229 with a favorable report. Thank you.