

Environmental and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Committee Chair

I am writing in support of the HB1130/SB229, cross filed legislation introduced by Delegate Palakovich Carr and Senator Beidle, respectively. I serve as a Councilmember in the City of College Park Maryland. For years, residents in the City, including those I represent, have continued to deal with the nuisance of consistent roadway noise from speeding vehicles, revving motorcycles, and modified mufflers along University Blvd, Rhode Island Ave, Greenbelt Road and other roadways. The noise, which seems to have worsened over time, occurs at all hours of the day and night and has become a quality-of-life issue. In fact, on occasion I have been awoken by the sound of a driver with a modified muffler or revving motorcycle taking advantage of a roadway with few cars in the very early hours of the morning.

Although police have made a concerted effort to cite a growing number of vehicles for modified mufflers, the fine for the citation is minimal and has not served as an effective deterrent to car enthusiasts who have little or no regard for those living in the community. Needless to say, this is a concern and irritant to many residents who rightfully seek solace and refuge in their homes. And they continue to seek relief from this annoyance.

Research indicates that noise pollution has adverse effects on health and wellbeing and can degrade living environments (Goines & Hagler, 2007). Issues related to stress, sleep disruption and heart disease have been associated with noise pollution (Duent, 2022). There is enough noise associated with everyday living, why must people be subjected to unnecessary noise that adversely impacts their lives?

Similar to speed cameras, I believe that noise abatement monitoring systems will serve as a disincentive to those who are identified and fined for their noise pollution. If you seek to take steps toward improving the quality of life and living environments for Marylanders, I urge you to pass this legislation and allow local governments to utilize noise abatement monitoring systems to cite drivers and hold them accountable for such noise violations.

Sincerely,



Latetra Brown Esters, Councilmember City of College Park

References

- Goines and Hagler, 2007, *Noise Pollution: A Modern Plague*. Retrieved on February 28, 2023 from <https://docs.wind-watch.org/Goines-Hagler-2007-Noise-pollution-a-modern-plague.pdf>
- Duent, 2022, *The Effects of Noise on Health*. Retrieved on February 2023 from <https://hms.harvard.edu/magazine/viral-world/effects-noise-health>