

Memorandum



DATE: December 4, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee:
Sandy Greyson (Chair), Tiffinni A. Young (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton,
Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT: **Mobile Noise Sources**

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, you will be briefed on Mobile Noise Sources. The materials are attached for your review.



Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Mobile Noise Sources

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Quality of Life & Environment Committee



www.dallaspolice.net



David O. Brown
Chief Of Police

History

The Quality of Life & Environment Committee requested a briefing by the Police Department on Mobile Noise Sources and their disruptive effects on communities within the City of Dallas

Purpose

To diminish mobile noise violations and improve community quality of life in areas with high volumes of late night traffic concerns in the City of Dallas

Dallas City Code

- Dallas City Code, Chapter 30 Noise
- Chapter 30. Noise, Sec. 30-1, Loud and Disturbing Noises and Vibrations
- A person commits an offense if he makes or causes to be made any loud and disturbing noise or vibration in the city that is offensive to the ordinary sensibilities of the inhabitants of the city

Mobile Source Noise

- Most pervasive mobile sources of noise include passenger vehicles, motorcycles and heavy trucks
- Sources include car stereos, mufflers and drag racing
- Sound intensity is measured in decibels (dB)
 - A soft whisper at 3 feet equals 30 dBA
 - A busy freeway at 50 feet is around 80 dBA
 - A chain saw can reach 110 dBA or more at operating distance.
 - Brief exposure to sound levels exceeding 120 dBA without hearing protection may cause physical pain

Dallas Police Department Patrol S.O.P.

- ▶ **Patrol Standard Operating Procedure**
- ▶ **1903 Disturbance-Loud Music or Noise**
- ▶ Violations occurring from vehicles whether moving or stationary where the music/noise is clearly unreasonable should be handled by the issuance of a citation rather than a warning

Dallas Police Department Patrol S.O.P.

- ▶ In areas with high volumes of late night traffic concerns in the City of Dallas the following loud and disturbing noises and vibrations are presumed to be offensive to the ordinary sensibilities of the inhabitants of the city
 - The sounding of any horn or signal device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus, streetcar, or other vehicle, except as a danger signal, as required by state law
- ▶ Enforcement action for these violations may be taken in accordance with this procedure at any time by issuing a citation for Violation of Anti-Noise Ordinance Sec 30-1
- ▶ Should an officer take enforcement action for any of these loud and disturbing noises by issuing a citation or making an arrest for Disorderly Conduct 42.01(5), the officer must be able to testify why the noise was unreasonable

Police 911 Calls – Communications

- ▶ If a person calls 911 to report loud music coming from a car, the call taker will take the vehicle description and pass the information to the police dispatcher
- ▶ The dispatcher will announce the vehicle description over the air, in case an officer is in the area

Police 911 Calls – Communications

- ▶ Communications does not make a call sheet and dispatch officers to a moving vehicle
- ▶ If the caller is following the car, communications will advise them to stop following the vehicle.
- ▶ Loud music from a vehicle can also be reported through the 311 system

Vehicle Mobile Noise Violation

- The following requirements **must** be met before a 311 call would be entered:
 - Motor vehicle **must be in motion** and not parked
 - The 311 caller **must** provide complete **vehicle license plate number and vehicle make**
 - A **valid location** **must** be provided by the 311 caller
- If requirements were not met a 311 call should not be entered. Parked vehicles were referred to 911

Vehicle Mobile Noise Violation

- Pilot program initiated by Northeast Patrol Division
- Program conducted from April 1, 2013 – October 1, 2013
- Process required a 311 call be generated based on vehicles in motion emitting loud music
- Registered owners would then be contacted via a letter of notification by a Neighborhood Police Officer

Vehicle Mobile Noise Violation

- Results:
 - Timeframe: April 1, 2013 – October 1, 2013
 - 9 Alleged violations resulted in Non-matching plates
 - 6 Alleged violations resulted in a Letter of Notification
 - 15 total violations



Summary

The Dallas Police Department will continue to minimize unwelcome disturbance and disruption of privacy while preserving public health, safety, and welfare

Questions??