



Memo to Council

Date: January 14, 2025
Subject: Noise Camera Pilot – Motion Served by Councillor Samantha Agtarap and Councillor Diana Dilworth

Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the November 26, 2024, Regular Council meeting:

THAT staff be directed to report back with a project plan that that defines the potential development of a noise camera pilot program, with the goal of implementing such a program to monitor vehicular noise pollution in strategic key corridors in our community. The pilot program would help the City to better understand the use of technology in such a program, and the identify potential data and privacy issues.

Background

At the 2024 UBCM Conference, the following resolution was passed:

Whereas noise pollution has wide-ranging and well documented negative effects on public health and well-being and social connectedness, and vehicular noise pollution, from such sources as aftermarket exhaust systems are a particularly acute source of noise pollution, and these impacts disproportionately affect residents living near major thoroughfares, which are often more affordable housing types;

And whereas many jurisdictions have sought to address the numerous challenges to the effective monitoring and enforcement of existing vehicular noise regulations through conventional law enforcement approaches by deploying noise cameras:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of using noise cameras to effectively enforce vehicular noise regulations through the creation of a noise camera pilot project for municipalities to opt into.

Resolutions passed at UBCM and submitted to Provincial agencies traditionally can take years to receive a response. Since our UBCM resolution was endorsed, there has been significant interest from media and noise camera companies have offered free pilots to interested communities in BC. This memo proposes the City develop its own pilot program, in advance of any provincial action and address additional questions of privacy and use of data collected by the technology through the pilot program.

As noted in the Memo to Council titled UBCM Advocacy: Provincial Noise Camera Pilot Project, dated May 28, 2024, the adverse effects of noise pollution on public health and well-being are

well documented, and there is a growing understanding that noise pollution also adversely impacts community connectivity. One source comes from vehicles, especially those equipped with aftermarket exhaust systems that breach legal limits. The maximum allowable dBA from motor vehicles operating in the province is 83 dBA for light duty vehicles, 88 dBA for gasoline-powered heavy-duty vehicles, 91 dBA for motorcycles, and 93 dBA for diesel-powered heavy-duty vehicles. Enforcing these regulations are challenging, and as a result, vehicular noise pollution in municipalities persist.

Noise cameras offer a way to address vehicular noise pollution and enforce existing regulations. Like red light cameras which are already in widespread use, noise cameras are traffic cameras “that are equipped with a high-definition camera and audio sensor that are triggered by cars and other vehicles that exceed pre-defined noise limits.”¹ However, existing provincial regulations prevent individual municipalities from deploying red light or noise cameras.

While data captured by the noise camera pilot could not be used for enforcement purposes, the benefits are two-fold:

1. An objective, data-driven understanding of vehicular noise levels in our community, and
2. Test relatively new technology in advance of any provincial regulation changes, enabling a future quick response should regulations change.

A pilot project will provide valuable data on the effectiveness of noise cameras in enforcing vehicular noise regulations. The data collected will assist in assessing current compliance with noise regulations, better understand the city’s noisescap and highlight vehicular noise in future planning decisions.

Requested Timeline

<u>Level</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Staff Turnaround Time</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory or interjurisdictional requirements • Major and immediate risk and/or financial impact 	< 3 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Time-sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impact to the community • Significant financial impact 	3-6 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-urgent	All other work	< 12 months
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		

Council Strategic Plan Alignment

This motion aligns with the following Council Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Strategic Goal 3.3 Enhance community well being. Facilitate community well-being through programs and long-term planning Provide recreation services and access to indoor and outdoor amenities for all ages and abilities. Incorporate our values, including diversity, equity, inclusion, Truth and Reconciliation, and climate actions, into our policies, plans and initiatives.

Council Options

The following responses are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff to bring back a report (staff will determine if the nature of the work warrants a project proposal or a staff report, and will include considerations with respect to feasibility, resources, timeline, strategic plan alignment, and legislative analysis).
3. Other.