

CITY OF CALGARY

In 1997, the City of Calgary amended Section 51.1 of the Calgary Traffic Bylaw, number 26M96, which states that a person must not make, continue, or allow to be made or continued any objectionable noise which is defined as any sound caused by or emanating from a motor vehicle that annoys or disturbs humans or endangers the health and safety of humans and includes:

- (i) the squeal of a tire made by a motor vehicle which is accelerating or changing direction,
- (ii) a roaring or explosive sound,
- (iii) the sound of a radio, stereo, television, or other device or amplification equipment,
- (iv) the sound from vehicle-mounted amplification equipment, a bullhorn or other device used to amplify voices, which is continuously made for more than two minutes at the same location,
- (v) the sound of a diesel engine bus which has been idling or otherwise running continuously for more than three minutes at the same location except where the diesel engine bus is located within a garage or depot intended for its long term parking, and
- (vi) the sound of a motor vehicle security system which is made,
 - a. for a period exceeding one minute, or
 - b. more than three times in one 24 hour period, except for the motor vehicle security system's activation status signal,
- (vii) noise measured at 96 decibels (dBA) or more as measured by a sound pressure level meter at any point of reception.

This Section of the Traffic Bylaw is punishable by a fine of \$270.00 with reductions for early payment of the fine. In 2012, Calgary Police Service (CPS) initiated a pilot project involving the use of a decibel meter reader produced by Street Noise Reduction Systems Ltd. ("snare") of Edmonton. Two of these devices, designed to measure vehicle noise along with ambient noise, were purchased to assist with enforcement of the bylaw. During the first year of the project, CPS used the snare to record 23,193 vehicles. Of those, 15 were found to be too loud. Only one \$270 ticket was issued and it was dismissed in court on a procedural issue. CPS terminated the two year pilot project in its second year and severed ties with Street Noise Reduction Systems Ltd. CPS continue to use the snare to record ambient average noise levels and use the Provincial Legislation to charge offenders involved in excessive noise. The use of the snare is not required for court or charges, but provides some additional evidence for the officers to make a decision on charges. During a two week specifically directed operation in the spring of 2016, CPS did not issue any violation tickets.

