

At its meeting held on January 17, 2017, RCMP/Enforcement Services presented a report to Council highlighting the successes and challenges encountered by the City of Edmonton in implementing the motorcycle noise provisions of its Community Standards Bylaw and provided information on the implications of a similar bylaw in Strathcona County that would apply to noise from all motorized vehicles.

As part of its report to Council, Enforcement Services reported that the Traffic Safety Act, The Use of Highway Rules of the Road Regulations and the County's Noise Control Bylaw #66-99 are used by officers to enforce excessive noise emitted by vehicles in Strathcona County.

Four options were presented to Council at the January 17 meeting as a strategy to deal with excessive noise in Strathcona County. Following some discussion, Council approved the "Three-Phase Enhanced Approach", which includes an Education/Prevention Phase, an Enforcement Phase, and a Prosecution Phase.

The Education/Prevention Phase includes rural and urban off site education programs and utilizing media for proper messaging. The Enforcement Phase includes the use of digital decibel readers to enhance enforcement strategies (22 of these readers have been purchased and are currently in use). The Prosecution Phase includes enhanced evidence and testimony training for Enforcement Services.

Through sustained enforcement and a continuous effort by members of the Traffic Unit and General Duty Section, there has been a 34% decrease in the number of reported incidents surrounding noise in Strathcona County for the 2017 year over 2016. Presently, RCMP/Enforcement Services has over 20 outstanding investigations involving charges laid under the Noise Bylaw in the court process, with the majority awaiting trial.

RCMP/Enforcement Services will again be hosting two free noise roadside clinics. These clinics provide drivers of motorcycles, and all other vehicles, the opportunity to have a professional assessment conducted on their noise emission to determine whether or not they could face charges if they operated their vehicles in their present state. Dates and times of these clinics will be communicated once confirmed. This does not address the issues of drivers whose vehicles meet all the required specification, but operate their vehicles in a manner that causes excessive noise. The County's officers continue to address those individuals as they see them.