

# Excessive Vehicle Noise

Priorities Committee Meeting  
October 6, 2020

# Objective

- Current state
- Review of other municipalities
- Next steps

# Current State

## Noise Complaints

	2018	2019	2020 (YTD)
Music	45	59	63
<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>
Party	18	21	20
Construction	34	33	26
Other - includes firearms, shouting, fireworks, kids playing, unfounded etc	33	34	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>187</b>

# Current State

- Legislation used for enforcing excessive vehicle noise within Strathcona County:
  - Section 61 of the Alberta Traffic Safety Act Vehicle Equipment Regulations
  - Section 82 of the Use of Highway Rules of the Road Regulations
  - Strathcona County Noise Control Bylaw 66-99, Section 3.1(b)  
Motor vehicle cause noise
- In the majority of cases, the charges are ancillary to other violations detected by our officers and noisy vehicles continue to be a major focus of all vehicle equipment checks

# Current State

- It is important to note that the limitations of the legislation are based on the subjectivity of what is considered excessive noise
- There are no specific sound measurements included in the Traffic Safety Act, Use of Highway Rules of the Road or the County's bylaw that outline what is illegal
- This leads to the challenge of enforcement based on a subjective interpretation of excessive noise by the officer
- As the discretionary judgement of what is considered excessive noise is subjective, it has led to many cases being thrown out in the judicial system

# Review of Other Municipalities

- Municipal scan included:
  - Edmonton
  - St Albert
  - Parkland County
  - Red Deer
  - Grande Prairie

# Review of Other Municipalities

- No municipality was found to have a noise test level, or noise measurement procedure, that works for determining an objectionable noise for all motor vehicles, at all engine RPM, vehicle speeds, or vehicle loadings
- City of Edmonton's Automated Noise Enforcement Project
  - This project involves the use of automated technologies, including cameras, as well as a human presence with the noise-monitoring devices
  - It is currently gathering data and evaluating equipment

# Review of Other Municipalities

- Edmonton's Noise Bylaw – 15442 Section 18.1
  - Noise specific bylaw dedicated to motorcycles
  - Edmonton Police Service will charge violators at three benchmark noise levels tested when a motorcycle is stationary:
    - Violators in excess of 92 dbA at idle for all motorcycles
    - Violations in excess of 96 dbA at 2000 rpm for motorcycles having less than 3 cylinders or more than 4 cylinders
    - Violators in excess of 100 dbA at 500 rpm for motorcycles with 3 or 4 cylinders



# Next Steps

- Initiate a review of the County's Noise Bylaw 66-99
  - Look at the potential of restructuring it with the addition of set decibel level tolerances for vehicle noise in Strathcona County
  - This would include investigating the costs for decibel measuring equipment required to enforce the potential changes to the bylaw
- Investigate the requirements and costs of developing an education, awareness and prevention program on excessive vehicle noise

# Next Steps

- Investigate the potential of holding clinics to test vehicle sound levels using digital decibel readers to educate, inform, and enhance enforcement strategies
- Engage our regional partners to discuss regional approaches for addressing excessive vehicle noise
- Initiate a dialogue with the province on establishing provincial standards for what constitutes an objectional noise level from vehicles and an established method for determining or measuring noise

# Questions?

