

TO: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nithya Raman
Seleta Reynolds, General Manager, LADOT
Michel Moore, Chief of Police, LAPD

CC: Los Angeles City Council

RE: Vehicle Exhaust Noise in Mid City West and throughout the City of Los Angeles

In an April 22, 2020 [Los Angeles Times article](#), it was reported that since the year 2000, over 179 people were killed in street racing incidents in Los Angeles County. As a city, we are very careful to regulate the sounds coming from airplanes above, yet ignore the horrifying and dreadful sounds manipulated on the ground for the sole purpose of attracting and diverting attention. This diverted attention is disturbing the peace at unprecedented levels never before imagined.

State and city governments have the power to regulate this: [CVC 27151](#) prohibits exhaust sound levels above 95 dbA for cars and [CVC 27202](#) prohibits exhaust sound levels above 88 dbA for motorcycles. Some vehicle exhaust systems are even manipulated to copy the sound of rapid gunfire, which causes wasted LAPD time and money when mistaken for actual gunfire - the laws are regularly abused with impunity.

Sounds from our streets can have a negative psychological impact on people, especially:

- Those suffering from PTSD
- Children
- Seniors
- Pets

[One recent study](#) showed that any noise above 65 dbA can trigger an increase in blood pressure, heart rate, and stress hormones in the blood.

In the UK, [‘noise cameras’ have been implemented](#); they automatically measure exhaust sounds and ticket offending drivers. Why encourage the City of Los Angeles to explore the implementation of a similar program, which would enforce existing laws related to noise pollution.

This issue is no longer tolerable to many of our stakeholders - exhaust noise is keeping our kids awake, disturbing the peace, and making our city more stressful and less livable on a daily basis.

Short term, we ask that our city not only begin enforcing existing laws and clamp down on auto shops that make these illegal modifications. Longer term, we ask that you consider making this a legislative priority in Sacramento to enable the city to implement noise cameras or similar automated enforcement in the City of Los Angeles. but also suggest that our city’s

leaders request assistance from our state representatives to aggressively bring this excessive street noise to an end.