

Hi Burnaby City Council

My wife, daughter and I are residents of the Brentwood neighborhood and live a few stories up from the intersection of two busy streets. We didn't move to this location because we love traffic noise, but because it is 100 meters from the skytrain and not commuting by car is important to my wife and I. Unfortunately, by limiting our contribution to traffic noise, we are the ones impacted by it.

Today I'm asking that Burnaby City Council work to become leaders in dealing with traffic noise from vehicles with altered exhaust systems or stock exhaust systems that are far louder than the average vehicle.

A modern car, SUV or van is relatively quiet with minimal noise impact on residents. Buses and freight trucks are not clearly a problem and at least provide a valuable service moving goods and people. These vehicles will all continue to decrease in volume as electric engines become more prominent and traditional engines become more optimized.

Conversely, there are vehicles which are purchased or modified to be far louder than necessary due to the drivers desire to be loud. Typically these are motorcycles, sports cars and trucks and they can be heard kilometers away, disturbing an entire town center. This impacts both residents in the area as well as businesses which for instance may have a patio facing a busy street. Maybe 20 years ago there were streets in Burnaby where someone could have driven without impacting residents, but today we are rapidly developing housing and service focused businesses around our busy streets.

We can envision a future where even Burnaby's busy streets are quiet, but if we continue to allow a few individuals to choose to be loud for no apparent reason, we won't achieve that future. Indeed, the noise from those drivers will be even more shocking when they do roar by.

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