

Public hearing testimony

September 17, 2024

Bill 14-24, Vehicle Noise Abatement Monitoring –Pilot Program

I urge the Montgomery County Council to place one of the three noise abatement monitoring systems in the City of Rockville. Rockville's elected state and municipal leaders advocated strongly for passage of the state law that enabled the pilot program to address noise pollution generated by vehicles with illegally modified exhaust systems.

Until recently, I was president of the Twinbrook Community Association (TCA). One of the most frequent concerns I heard from residents was about vehicle noise and the speed contests that often go with it. Major thoroughfares like MD-586 (Veirs Mill), MD-28 (Norbeck), and MD-355 (Rockville Pike) are hotbeds for this activity. Apart from occasional targeted enforcement operations, local police do not have the bandwidth to enforce state law regarding modified vehicle exhausts. Violators act with impunity because there are no consequences. For this reason, TCA strongly supported changing state law to enable automated enforcement mechanisms.

I hope the County Council seizes this opportunity and maximizes chances for a successful pilot. Automated enforcement of vehicle noise will improve quality of life and improve road safety in communities adjacent to heavily trafficked state highways, like Rockville.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent Russo