



## Noise bylaw gets muffled

Alderman disappointed proposed changes won't be in place this summer

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Ear-splitting vehicles may become illegal in Calgary but not until the city steps back to study calls to bring in a muffling bylaw, council decided Monday.

Politicians said excessive vehicle noise is a growing city-wide concern and negatively affects Calgarians' quality of life.

But Mayor Dave Bronconnier said there are enforcement issues with a noise bylaw.

"That is something that's not easy to do given the demands on bylaw enforcement and creating the expectation that every noisy vehicle, noisy party, noisy siren will somehow be resolved by city bylaw, because it won't be," he said.

Ald. Gord Lowe attempted to rewrite the multi-sponsored notice of motion but Bronconnier said he couldn't allow it because it's contrary and that Lowe could only amend it.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart amended the motion, asking administration to look into the matter before introducing changes to the bylaw.

Council agreed with Colley-Urquhart and administration has until March 2011 to report, but Ald. Druh Farrell wants the report to come earlier.

Ald. John Mar, who was advocating for a bylaw change, said he's disappointed the tougher rules are not going to happen this year.

"Council has decided and it's one step forward, two steps back," said Mar.

"We know that this is inevitable, we know that we're going to move forward on it, but council has decided let's just tiptoe around (it) and have the next council deal with it."

He had wanted to bring in the bylaw change sometime this summer, targeting excessively loud vehicles, but not just motorcycles.

"There's not a mention of motor in the notice of motion," he said.

"The only thing that we are mentioning specifically is the retarder brakes being used in the city."

The proposed changes to the bylaw would have made noise stronger than 96 decibels illegal, but now that will also be part of the review.

Mar said the average car normally makes a 70-decibel noise while a bus runs at 80 decibels.

"There's no vehicle imported to Canada that creates over 90 decibels," he said.

The current rule is "so arbitrary and discretionary" said Mar and the city should provide officers with tools they can use to better enforce the law. The study will also include appropriate penalties and enforcement options, including using existing and emerging technology that will measure the noise.

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