

Item of Concern - Traffic Speed and Noise on 8th St. East

As follow up to our previous submission of May 4th, 2020 to the Standing Policy Committee On Transportation, on behalf of the residents of Providence III/1015 Moss Ave. (adjacent to 8th Street), I request that the city undertake more immediate actions to alleviate this major source of concern.

- Overview:
 - The greatest source of concern is traffic noise emanating from vehicle muffler systems, and the overall safety of citizens impacted by the speed of 8th Street traffic.
 - Testament of such vehicle noise that our residents are faced with comes from one of our residents (Mary Markewich) as she captured such via video.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtBey2Hx6W5ggH-VyxCpBhzHT1ZU>

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AtBey2Hx6W5ggGeiVlzVAX4NWMj1>
 - This traffic noise is most evident during the spring, summer and fall, particularly on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday commencing mid-afternoon to late evening. This has been an issue for our residents in excess of three years.
 - The *Vehicle Noise-May 2020 Update* validates our concerns as residents of 8th Street, by stating that “41% of all traffic noise violations are issued on 8th Street”. This further evidences the need for the city to undertake more impactful measures to address this matter such that our residents are better able to enjoy a more healthy, stress free and meaningful life. They should not have to use ear plugs, and experience loss of sleep.
 - Our residents (Providence I, II, III and IV) contribute significantly to the economic welfare of the City of Saskatoon through property tax (in excess of \$630,000 annually) and considerable resident fiscal spending among the numerous businesses neighboring our four condominiums.

- In summary, we firmly believe that 8th Street ‘noise and speed reduction’ is critical and not too much to ask for, when considering what our residents are contributing financially, and the extent to which their life is being negatively impacted..
- Suggested matters for the City of Saskatoon to consider and accordingly implement as a more immediate rectification of 8th Street traffic speed and noise.
 - Muffler noise is matter of muffler capability to emit a certain level of noise. Concerns have been expressed that there may be installers who sell and install mufflers that do not meet the standards required. The city and S.G.I. need to overview and more rigidly enforce muffler inspection standards.
 - Furthermore, law enforcement agencies should be equipped to measure the installed mufflers in order to ensure that the decibel readings are within the requirements. Should readings not be in accordance with the law, then measures such as vehicle impounding, fines, etc. should be enacted.
 - Section 215 of the *Traffic Safety Act* provides Law Enforcement officers with the authority to charge an individual if he/she creates or causes the emission of any loud and unnecessary noise from a motor vehicle, a part of a motor vehicle or anything or substance that the motor vehicle or a part of the motor vehicle comes into contact with. In this regard, cities and municipalities have the authority to pass their own bylaws to regulate excessive noise. Review of the city’s bylaws in this regard should be undertaken.
 - Vehicle route – Currently, there is a U-turn positioned east (approx. 150 m) of the 8th Street and Luther Place intersection. Eliminating this current U-turn would no longer enable the ‘use’ of this setting as a position to accelerate from or race in a westerly direction thus creating a loud muffler noise.
 - Encouraging residents to contact/report to city police occasions of excessive speed and muffler noise, such as during Friday, Saturday and Sunday late afternoons and evenings will enhance police focus to

this matter and therein provide more regular officer assignment in this area at these particular times. In and of itself, this will not solve our noise problem but will make a positive difference.

- Should there be Province of Saskatchewan legislation that is deemed to be hindering the city's ability to more proactively address vehicle noise reduction, then it is strategically important for city administrators to work at addressing with the province, the need to make changes particularly as it pertains to vehicle/muffler noise.
- Undoubtedly, Saskatoon is not the only city that is/has experienced traffic 'noise' issues. Collaboration with such locations as Toronto's Noise Action Plan, Edmonton's Enforcement Pilot program, etc. would result in a proactive approach of remedy. The *Vehicle Noise – May 2020 Update* outlines Winnipeg's automated 24-hour "noise cameras" to mitigate vehicle noise caused, in part, on those 'cruise' nights, as we readily notice on 8th Street. This Winnipeg strategy uses cameras to capture license plate data when the vehicle noise volume reaches a certain point.

- Residents have a right to a safe and secure environment, and the City of Saskatoon has an obligation to ensure these rights.

On behalf of the residents of Providence III / 1015 Moss Avenue, we express with fervent energy and need, that the City of Saskatoon proactively engage in reducing traffic noise and speed by committing to looking at the possibilities to be embraced...*the positive outcomes.*

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