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From: Elizabeth Gilbert <egilbert9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 1:40 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: info@providencenoiseproject.org; Rep. DeSimone, Anthony J.
Subject: Why I support House Bill 7368: Automated Traffic Violation Monitoring Systems: Noise Limits

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Dear House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Gilbert and I have lived in Providence for over two years now. Previously, I've lived in various cities in California, London, various large cities in Germany, and Prague, and I have never experienced such noise pollution as I have here in Providence, Rhode Island. This is why I am passionate about the Providence Noise Project and supporting H-7368.

When I first moved to Providence, I lived on the corner of Atwells Avenue and Dean Street. I am an ESL instructor for a local nonprofit organization and, at the time, I taught from home. The noise pollution was almost unbearable. In fact, that is the reason I moved to my current location-- I sought somewhere quieter to live! Every day, I heard multiple ambulance sirens (many of which I suspect were not actually necessary), roaring cars with intentionally altered and/or disabled mufflers, and vehicles blasting music at all hours. Unfortunately, while the noise pollution lessened once I moved to Fox Point, it is still significant and something that I deal with on a daily basis.

For example, often I have to pause teaching to wait for a car with an altered muffler to pass so that my students can hear me. I often wake up from sleep when a vehicle idles outside my apartment blasting music that reverberates throughout the entire building. I have to comfort my pets when they are startled by excessive, loud revving of engines. In spring and summer months, someone drives around the Fox Point neighborhood with speakers installed outside his van so that I can hear him approach blocks away, interrupting my work. It's aggravating, to say the least.

Many of my students, immigrants and refugees new to the country, also complain to me about the noise in their neighborhoods, how noise pollution makes them feel agitated and anxious, wakes their sleeping children, and generally adds to their daily stress levels. They ask me why the police don't enforce noise curfews. I also wonder why seemingly nothing is done when people so flagrantly flout noise curfews. I don't understand why out of 5,600 noise complaints made in 2023, only 19 citations were given. I don't understand why major cities like London and San Francisco have less noise pollution than Providence.

The noise cameras proposed in bill H-7386 would be a low-cost solution to this problem. If the bill passes, the noise cameras the city uses would help deter illegal sound-level limits without needing to divert law-enforcement officers from other duties. What's more, human bias wouldn't play a role in detection, as the noise cameras only take pictures of vehicles they register as creating excessive sound levels, regardless of the type of sound vehicles create or who is driving the vehicle.

I implore the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee to please take this issue seriously. Please, truly consider H-7368 and the implications of not passing it.

Sincerely,

