



Vehicle Engine Noise

Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police | February 2, 2026

Background



Austin Police and Council offices have received numerous complaints from residents about dangerous driving behaviors and loud and excessive noise from motorists.

Notable trends:

- Vehicle noise complaints were mostly concentrated on 2222, in Baker sector
- Motorcyclists were top contributors to excessive noise and speeding



Collaborative Approach



APD partnered with other City departments and local agencies to address resident concerns, including:

- Texas Department of Public Safety
- Travis County Sheriff's Office
- Travis County Constable's Office
- Texas Department of Public Transportation (TxDOT)
- Travis County Parks
- City Attorney's Office



Enforcement & Outreach Efforts



Collaborative enforcement and public education and outreach to address these concerns has included:

- Quarterly stakeholder meetings
- Directed patrols
- Traffic signal synchronization
- Helicopter presence
- Unmanned patrol vehicles
- Rumble strips (TxDOT)
- Speed trailers
- Social media campaigns



2025 Enforcement Data for RM 2222



The below chart represents enforcement actions taken by APD, DPS, the Travis County Precinct 2 Constable's Office, and Travis County Sheriff's Office from January – September 2025.

Type of Contact	Count
Hazardous Citations	223
Non-Hazardous Citations	69
Warnings	207
Motorcycle Contacts	27
Total	499



APD officers worked approximately 175 hours of overtime to perform proactive enforcement work during this timeframe (~19.5 hours per month).

Proposed Amendment

APD and the City Attorney's Office drafted an amendment to City Code 12-1 (Traffic Regulation and Administration). The amendment:

- Adds a new section that will create an offense related to vehicle engine noise
- Will allow officers to cite motorists for “unreasonable noise”
- Will allow officers to more effectively address resident complaints of excessive vehicle engine noise



Council Action & Next Steps



APD will bring the proposed amendment to Council for approval and adoption (tentatively scheduled for March 26, 2026)



If adopted, APD will:

- Educate officers on the updates to City Code 12-1 (Traffic Regulation and Administration)
- Continue to collaborate with partner agencies and community members through public education, outreach, and plans for enforcement





Questions?