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**Crane, Paula**

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**From:** Jason Stockmann [bauhaus2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2014 2:57 PM  
**To:** Crane, Paula  
**Subject:** testimony from City Council meeting on Nov. 24, 2014  
**Attachments:** stockmann\_testimony\_cambridge\_city\_council\_nov\_24\_2014.docx

Ms. Crane,

Please find attached my testimony from last night's City Council meeting. My specific request is for traffic noise pollution to be discussed in the Citywide Plan along with steps to mitigate the problem.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

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## Testimony for Cambridge City Council meeting

November 24, 2015

Submitted by:

Jason Stockmann  
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- I applaud the City for the recently released Strategic Recommendations for a Citywide Plan → features many great ideas for improving our quality of life
  - **One of the themes is “quiet neighborhoods”.**
- I live on Gore Street in East Cambridge, an area heavily impacted by noise from high levels of thru traffic: buses, cars, motorcycles, and trucks.
- Traffic noise prevents people from enjoying public spaces in Cambridge
- More seriously, traffic noise invades homes and ***robs residents of the peaceful enjoyment of their home***
  - Numerous studies link traffic noise in the home to hypertension, elevated cortisol levels, insomnia, depression, and difficulty paying attention / learning deficits.
- The best way to reduce traffic noise in the home is to encourage traffic to avoid residential streets and instead use commercial thoroughfares and avenues.
  - Smart use of one-way streets to discourage traffic from entering neighborhoods
  - More signage directing trucks away from residential streets
- I encourage the City Council to address to these two significant sources of traffic noise:
  - **MBTA diesel bus noise** (EZ-Ride bus is also extremely loud)
    - Buses use turbochargers to reduce particular emissions
    - Hybrid diesel-electric buses are much quieter
      - The MBTA is rolling out 60 new hybrid buses in the coming months
    - The City of Cambridge should work with MBTA to reduce bus noise impact in the city by phasing out diesel buses
      - Replace with hybrid buses or new electric and/or fuel cell buses
      - MBTA is looking for partner agencies to help fund testing of new electric and fuel cell bus prototypes
  - **Illegal aftermarket exhaust on cars, pickup trucks, and motorcycles**

- Extremely loud aftermarket exhaust is common on vehicles in Cambridge
    - Low frequency noise passes through walls and windows into residences
  - Title XIV, Chapter 90, Section 16 of the General Laws state that “No person shall operate a motor vehicle... with an exhaust system which has been modified in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the exhaust.”
  - **Cambridge police department does not cite motorists operating vehicles with illegal exhaust**
    - City Council should direct CPD to start a campaign to cite these vehicles and **report them to the RMV**
      - This will encourage neighboring municipalities to follow suit
  - Other corrective actions:
    - Reach out to Beacon Hill to pass additional legislation governing vehicle noise emissions
    - Reach out to Governor to ask for targeted exhaust noise enforcement by state police
    - Make sure the RMV is working with shops performing state emissions inspection to **ensure that vehicles with illegal exhaust fail their annual inspection.**
- In conclusion: I encourage the Council to regard traffic noise not as a nuisance or necessary evil of city living, but as a **serious and correctable public health problem**. To this end, *steps for reducing vehicular noise pollution should be included in the Citywide Plan.*