

Amy Harvey

From: joanrehm@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:53 AM
To: Amy Harvey
Cc: klnels@aol.com
Subject: Follow up from Town Council Meeting

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Good Morning Amy,

Below is the statement Karin Nelson and I read last night at the Town Council Meeting in support of the petition we authored. We would appreciate your passing this along to the Mayor and Town Manager to consider as they move forward on this issue. Thanks very much.

Petition on downtown excessive exhaust noise from Karin Nelson, 140 West Franklin, and Joan Rehm, Greenbridge.

This petition represents a joint effort of 140 and Greenbridge, who together comprise over 230 residents.

About a year ago the 2 condo residences decided to form a Downtown Neighborhood Association. We recognize ourselves as a unique Chapel Hill neighborhood of residents who chose to live downtown and understand what comes with "city living."

Both of our homeowner Boards learned that the #1 issue from residents was excessive noise, specifically noise from cars and motorcycles that have been enhanced with expensive equipment to make their vehicles noisier and even backfire while at stoplights. The drivers of these vehicles have made the downtown neighborhood the place to show off their noise enhanced cars. They circle downtown streets all hours of the day and night. Downtown neighbors cannot enjoy their balconies and are awakened from their sleep at night.

This noise isn't a nuisance but rather a problem not only for downtown residents but also the future of downtown growth.

We have met with BOTH the Mayor and the Police Chief who have made us aware of the two recent changes you have made to the local noise ordinance. We applaud those efforts, and urge you to continue to adopt changes to the ordinance that will help to address the excessive, and on-going, enhanced exhaust noise from vehicles in town.

Second, we also urge you to investigate available technology to provide assistance in curtailing this excessive noise problem. For example, there are sound detecting cameras, which record both video and audio, and capture the license plate of the vehicle in violation,

from which a citation can be issued. In cities where this technology has been utilized, these cameras have quickly paid for themselves.

And finally, we urge you to move forward with this excessive noise issue, in fact ALL issues in the governance of CH, keeping in mind the impact of your decisions on those of us who live in high-rise buildings. The experience of sound at street level is very different from what we experience at higher levels. As sound travels upward from the street it becomes more intense, reverberating off of surrounding buildings and other hard surfaces. We know that CH plans continued expansion upward, and we urge you to recognize the impact of your decisions on the people in these high-rise buildings.

Thank you.