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April 28, 2010

To: Members,  
Board of Police Commissioners

Re: Regina Police Service Strategy for Controlling Excessive Noise

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board consider lobbying for Legislative changes that would restrict, and / or ban the sale of certain after market vehicle modifications, particularly those that fail to reduce combustion noise.

### CONCLUSION

The Regina Police Service, along with its partners Saskatchewan Government Insurance and the City of Regina are working toward the implementation of a simple, measureable and enforceable way to deal with vehicle noise in the City of Regina.

The Regina Police Service has continued to work with partners and stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies that are structured and achievable in relation to traffic safety and traffic calming that will result in the better control and reduction of excessive vehicle noise.

These initiatives will address the issues through the continued education of members of the Traffic Safety Unit, as well as stakeholders in the motorcycle and vehicle modification business in our Community. Training related to vehicle safety standard regulations will also be provided. Targeted enforcement of the cause of excessive vehicle noise such as speed violations, other moving infractions and after market vehicle modifications will continue to be an area of focus for the Regina Police Service. After market vehicle modifications are legal for sale. Some are designed for off street use, such as car shows. They become illegal when installed on street vehicles against the regulations. After market vehicle modifications, as they pertain specifically to this report, become illegal when they fail to reduce combustion noise. We will continue our proactive approach in partnership with City of Regina engineers to explore traffic calming options designed to slow and control traffic (such as noise cameras and speed humps). We will continue to work with Saskatchewan Vehicle Safety Standards in developing and the adoption of enforceable regulations relating directly to vehicle noise.

The City of Regina has applicable enforcement legislation in place which consists of:

- Traffic Safety Act, Section 214, Stunting
- Traffic Safety Act, Section 214(1) Drive in any Contests of Speed
- Traffic Safety Act, Section 215 Drive a Vehicle and Create or Cause a Loud and Unnecessary Noise

- Noise Abatement Bylaw, Bylaw 6980, Section 4A(a), Loud and Unnecessary Noise
- Traffic Bylaw, Bylaw 9900, Section 30, Engine Brake Retarder
- Section 18 Vehicle Regulations per Section 287.1 Inadequate muffler

In 2009 we issued 40 tickets specifically for vehicle noise related offences. Excessive speed creates vehicle noise and several thousand speeding tickets were issued as well.

## BACKGROUND

In 2010 the Board of Police Commissioners requested a report on strategies for controlling excessive vehicle noise.

Excessive vehicle noise is caused by after market modifications to a vehicle exhaust system, inadequate or non-existent exhaust systems and moving vehicle violations.

In 2004, a report was presented to the Board of Police Commissioners to provide strategies to reduce vehicle noise in the area of Albert Street Bridge. A strategy was outlined in that report to address excessive vehicle noise. Several of these initiatives are continuing and applicable to this report. Enforcement projects funded and non-funded by Saskatchewan Government Insurance, weekly check stop initiatives and a traffic focus of the month bring attention and enforcement to this specific traffic safety issue.

In 2004, the Regina Police Service initiated an aggressive exhaust testing program utilizing a decibel meter to detect vehicles emitting excessive exhaust noise. Vehicles identified were issued a light vehicle inspection ticket and directed to one of four identified noise testing stations in Regina. The noise testing stations were located at:

- Saturn Isuzu of Regina
- Midas Car Care
- Regina Muffler and Brake
- Alvey's Automotive

The issuing of an inspection ticket provided vehicle owners the opportunity to repair or replace faulty vehicle equipment. The acceptable standard for exhaust decibel levels and testing procedure was challenged, specifically as to how it applied to motorcycles and passenger vehicles with modified exhaust components. Saskatchewan Vehicle Safety Standards abandoned this enforcement, as prosecution was difficult to secure due to questions about equipment, ambient noise and the administration of the test. Therefore, at this time there is no practical road side or light vehicle inspection noise standards included in the Saskatchewan regulations. An inspection ticket may be issued to determine if a vehicle is equipped with a muffler and not just a resonator, however, it is not practical for an inspection facility to determine if an after market muffler meets OEM or Transport Canada's new vehicle noise emission standards.

Saskatchewan Vehicle Safety Standards is involved with testing of a new SAE standard for stationary roadside on-scene motorcycle exhaust noise testing. Saskatchewan Government Insurance is in the process of reviewing and monitoring the adoption of this testing throughout Canada.

## DISCUSSION

### Education and Training

In 2010, members of the Regina Police Service will receive training specific to light vehicle safety standards, which will assist them in recognizing and enforcing current safety standard legislation.

Members of the Regina Police Service will conduct blended road check stops targeted at light vehicle safety standards. These check stops will also have the participation of inspectors in light vehicle safety standards from the Saskatchewan Vehicle Safety Standards Unit. This close working relationship will provide a hands-on opportunity for police members to enhance their abilities and understanding of these regulations.

Members of the Traffic Safety Unit will attend specific businesses and community events at various retailers to provide insight into existing vehicle modification regulations.

### Enforcement

Members of the Regina Police Service will participate in target specific check stops to directly address the issue of vehicle modifications and faulty vehicle equipment that do not conform to current legislation.

We will continue to utilize members of the Traffic Safety Unit in both the funded and non-funded Enforcement Overdrive Projects. The additional expertise and experience gained from training will provide enhanced ability to address vehicle safety standard violations. The Regina Police Service conducts approximately 30 funded Enforcement Overdrive projects a year and schedules one additional project nearly every week that is not funded, for a total of 70 projects.

Focus of the Month initiatives direct enforcement and public attention to specific traffic safety issues including noise reduction.

In January 2010, the Community Services Division moved the Traffic Safety Unit to an alternate shifting schedule that effectively provides an increase in traffic safety members on duty during peak traffic periods and a shifting overlap that will present the opportunity for an increase in target specific traffic safety enforcement projects and check stops.

Traffic members enforce speed laws with the use of radar and laser equipment. Thousands of motor vehicles pass radar and laser checks each year. These vehicles,

whether they are stopped for speeding or just passing through the speed enforcement area, are scrutinized for vehicle equipment violations.

### Prevention

We will involve the Regina Police Service Media Relations Unit in drafting media releases around vehicle modification legislation and increased enforcement on these regulations.

We will provide information to the community while attending events or while at check stops and inform them of vehicle safety standard regulations with the intention of gaining compliance.

We will work with Saskatchewan Vehicle Safety Standards in adopting a vehicle noise measure testing protocol that is effective and enforceable.

We will interact with targeted community businesses that are stakeholders on this issue, motorcycle dealerships and after market vehicle modification retailers.

## RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS

### Financial Implications

None with respect to this report, as strategies will be implemented within the existing budget.

### Environmental Implications

The issue of “noise pollution” is a serious matter to all citizens; however, the Regina Police Service is restricted to a complex legislative framework in dealing with noisy vehicles on public streets.

### Strategic Implications

The Service will continue to provide safety services to the citizens of Regina by enforcing applicable legislation relating to excessive vehicle noise, utilizing a balanced approach to ensure resources remain dedicated to speeding in school zones and playgrounds (40 km/hr zones), drinking and driving, street racing and seatbelt enforcement.

With the stated initiatives in place, the Regina Police Service hopes to further reduce the number of loud vehicles operating in the City of Regina in 2010.

### Other Implications

None with respect to this report.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are none with respect to this report. A public information component will be introduced as the strategies proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Hagen', written over the printed name.

Troy Hagen,  
Chief of Police

