



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Ramón Batista, Assistant City Manager

From: Chief Lisa Davis, Austin Police *LD*

Date: July 10, 2026

Subject: **Staff Response to City Council Direction Regarding Ordinance 20260226-038**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide responsive information to City Council following the approval and adoption of [Ordinance 20260226-038](#) on February 26, 2026, which amended Chapter 12-1 (Traffic Regulation and Administration) of the City Code to add a new section relating to vehicle engine noise and created an offense. This ordinance took effect March 9, 2026.

The City Manager was formally [directed via City Council motion](#) to return within 90 days with the following:

- A review of how this ordinance has been enforced.
- Options for amending the City Code to regulate sound nuisances by non-vehicular motors or engines operating in the right of way and to explore enforcement of those regulations by Austin Code or other non-sworn City personnel.

Prior to and following City Council approval of the amended ordinance, Austin Police (APD) officers worked to address traffic safety concerns in APD's Baker sector, namely in the area of Ranch to Market Road 2222, where residents often observed motorcyclists speeding and making excessive noise. The amended ordinance provides officers with an enforcement mechanism to specifically address loud or disturbing vehicle engine noise when it is observed by a police officer.

Following the effective date of the ordinance, APD officers worked a total of 94.75 overtime hours throughout the month of May in Baker sector to address resident concerns of excessive vehicle engine noise. This focused effort did not result in any warnings or citations issued for vehicle engine noise. However, officers issued 78 hazardous citations, 17 non-hazardous citations, 127 warnings, and made contact with 10 motorcyclists during this time period. The chart below provides a breakdown of this data by day.

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Date	Non-Hazardous			
	Hazardous Cites	Cite	Warning	Motorcycle Contacts
5/5/2026	4	2	10	0
5/6/2026	2	2	14	1
5/9/2026	3	0	1	0
5/9/2026	5	0	3	1
5/10/2026	10	4	6	2
5/10/2026	2	0	0	0
5/11/2026	0	0	12	1
5/14/2026	2	2	13	0
5/16/2026	2	0	3	0
5/16/2026	6	1	0	1
5/17/2026	10	2	4	1
5/17/2026	1	0	4	0
5/17/2026	4	1	3	2
5/20/2026	4	1	12	0
5/21/2026	7	0	6	0
5/23/2026	5	1	3	1
5/25/2026	5	0	20	0
5/27/2026	6	1	13	0
Total	78	17	127	10

APD will continue to engage community stakeholders to address quality-of-life and safety concerns at the neighborhood level and will resume public education and outreach efforts via department social media pages to promote safe driving behaviors.

To explore the regulation of non-vehicular motors or engines operating in the right of way, the Development Services Department Code Division has initiated a series of stakeholder feedback efforts including a community survey and industry roundtable discussions. Initial feedback from 444 survey respondents indicates that residents prefer time-based regulations that prohibit loud or excessive noise between specific hours. Industry professionals, including the Texas Nursery and Landscaping Association, have voiced concerns over such limitations. DSD Code is currently researching best practices and regulations of peer cities, working to address legal questions related to the enforcement of proposed changes, and will complete stakeholder engagement follow-up with any findings. Once this work is complete, DSD Code will report back to City Council with recommendations for next steps.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact APD Chief Lisa Davis at Lisa.Davis@austintexas.gov or Elaine Garrett, DSD Assistant Director, at Elaine.Garrett@austintexas.gov.

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cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Jason Hadavi, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors