

2018 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

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207	1	A	2

Budget Action Title: Report on SPD enforcement of vehicle noise and cruising on Alki

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Herbold, Lisa

Councilmembers:

Staff Analyst: Amy Tsai

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	KH	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
11/15/2017	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

By March 16, 2018, the Seattle Police Department (SPD) is requested to submit a report to the Councilmember representing Council District 1, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities, and New Americans Committee, and Council Central Staff Director on SPD’s enforcement policies and practices with respect to vehicle noise and cruising in the Alki neighborhood during the warm-weather months.

Specifically, the report should include:

1. A review of historical enforcement challenges, including:
 - a. A brief summary of SPD’s history of enforcement activities under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 25.08 with respect to vehicle noise (including but not limited to SMC 25.08.450 regarding modified mufflers, SMC 25.08.515 regarding sound systems, and SMC 25.08.460 regarding tire noise), and SPD’s exercising of its authority under the anti-cruising law under SMC Chapter 11.69; and
 - b. Identification of technological and municipal code or state law factors that affect SPD’s ability to enforce Chapter 25.08 with regard to motor vehicles;
2. A progress report of current SPD strategies, including for each problem-solving strategy identified in the Alki Micro Community Policing Plan (MCP) to address "Crowd behavior and noise levels during the summer months," identification of actions taken, results, and future plans for the strategy;

3. Identification of potential solutions, including but not limited to:

- a. For motor vehicle noise enforcement, consideration of strategies used by the Washington State Patrol, King County, and other jurisdictions and, where successful, an analysis of whether the strategies could be used by the City of Seattle;
- b. Identification of and consideration of emerging technological approaches to vehicle noise enforcement; and
- c. For anti-cruising enforcement, an outline of a potential approaches for use of SMC Chapter 11.69 as part of Alki summer emphasis patrols or by traffic enforcement officers; and

4. Exploration of how approaches to noise enforcement can be applied to other neighborhoods such as Fautleroy, adjacent to the ferry dock, or the Downtown/Belltown corridor.

As a beachside neighborhood and regional destination, the Alki neighborhood and nearby areas face unique public safety and health challenges, from Beach Drive to the West Seattle Bridge. Residents, community groups, and visitors from elsewhere have expressed concern about the public health and safety impacts of a growing number of motor vehicle-related issues and behaviors.

The Alki MCPP has identified crowd behavior and noise levels during the summer months as a community priority. The Alki Public Safety and Health Survey developed by Councilmember Herbold and neighborhood residents likewise found that noise from modified vehicle exhaust systems and vehicle sound systems were significant areas of concern, along with cruising. The Fautleroy neighborhood near the ferry dock also experiences unusually heavy early-morning vehicle noise; and Belltown faces similar problems of loud vehicle noise. SPD's Alki MCPP strategies for crowd behavior and noise include involving the Southwest Precinct and SPD as a whole in strengthening and improving existing Seattle noise ordinances and its enforcement. This Statement of Legislative Intent further advances the conversation.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee

Date Due to Council: March 16, 2018