Resolution #8-R-26
Excessive Vehicular Noise Data Collection

Date: June 3, 2026
Submitted by: Alderperson Smith - District 4
Referred To: Mayor's Office

Resolution Summary: Since excessive car and motorcycle noise downtown is a continued source of complaints from residents and businesses, and since no data exists as to the extent of the noise burden experienced by residents, this resolution directs the city to evaluate methods for collecting noise data and return with options, costs, and initial recommendations within 90 days.

WHEREAS residents of the City of Appleton have expressed deep and longstanding concern regarding levels of vehicular noise experienced in certain corridors and neighborhoods;

WHEREAS Appleton city code (§12-77) identifies noise and specifically *vehicular noise* as a public health hazard, including the following statements:

> *The people have a right to an environment free from excessive sound that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety, or degrade the quality of life.*
>
> *It is the policy of the city to prevent noise that may jeopardize the health and welfare or safety of its citizens or degrade the quality of life*;

WHEREAS the City currently lacks systematic data regarding the frequency and intensity of extreme noise events, which has led to debates about noise abatement that proceed without a shared understanding of the problem or agreement about its scope;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council directs the City of Appleton, in consultation with the Appleton Police Department and Health Department, to evaluate methods for collecting and analyzing vehicular noise data within the city, with an emphasis on identifying the number and frequency of extreme incidents that most disrupt the ordinary life of residents. The city should return to Common Council within 90 days a report outlining available options and estimated costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the course of this study the city shall investigate various methods for monitoring vehicular noise, including but not limited to fixed decibel monitoring stations, temporary mobile monitoring equipment, citizen reporting agreements, and automated noise-detection technologies.