

Annual Report for Noise Camera Enforcement Program

Pursuant to Local Law 7 of 2024

January 31, 2025

Bureau of Environmental Compliance, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Background

Noise emissions from loud vehicle engines or mufflers can impinge on the quality of life in New York City. Some vehicle noise is so loud that it can even be a source of harmful public health impacts, such as sleep deprivation and hearing loss. In recent years, complaints about loud vehicle engines and mufflers have increased. The Department of Environmental Protection's Noise Camera Enforcement Program was created to combat this excessive noise. With strategically placed noise cameras, the Department ("DEP") identifies vehicles that exceed the New York City Noise Code's limits. A summons can be issued to any vehicle found to be violating these limits using evidence gathered by the camera.

Local Law 7

Local Law 7 of 2024 mandates a noise camera program that detects motor vehicles exceeding noise limits under the Noise Code. Subject to appropriations, DEP must install no fewer than 5 noise cameras in each borough by September 2025. DEP currently has nine cameras but has not received appropriations to expand the program to that extent.

Overview of the Program

The noise cameras are comprised of an array of microphones and cameras, including a "fisheye" (panoramic) and license plate reader (LPR) camera. When the microphones detect that a certain noise threshold is exceeded, the fisheye camera pinpoints the source of noise by placing a red dot on the source. Using the photo of the license plate that is captured by the LPR camera, the owner of the vehicle can be identified. Then, a summons for engine/muffler noise can be issued by DEP staff. Summonses for engine and muffler noise are issued pursuant to section 24-236(e) of the Noise Code. However, DEP not only uses the noise cameras to address engine/muffler noise but also uses them to address horn honking under section 24-237(a) and music from vehicles under section 24-233(b). The summonses are returnable at the NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH.) If found in violation at OATH, civil penalties are imposed against the vehicle owner.

Annual Report

Pursuant to section 24-236.1(e) of the Noise Code, DEP is required to submit to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council, and to post on its website, an annual report on the program including:

1. The locations of any such photo noise violation monitoring devices and time periods during which such devices were used;

2. The total number of violations recorded by photo noise violation monitoring devices on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis;
3. The total number of notices of violation issued for violations recorded by such devices;
4. The total number of violations adjudicated in accordance with subchapter 8 of this chapter and the results of such adjudications, disaggregated by dispositions made for violations recorded by such devices; and
5. Any expenses incurred by the city in connection with the program.

Reported Data

Locations, Active Dates and Number of Summonses

Location #	Camera Location	Active Dates	Number of days a camera was at this location	Number of summonses issued at this location	% of total summonses issued at all locations during active dates at this location.
1	2698 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463	8/14/23-12/31/24	506	73	4.56%
2	1469 Saint Nicholas Avenue, New York, NY 10033	12/9/23-12/31/24	388	141	8.80%
3	150 West 65th Street, New York, NY 10023	8/14/23-12/31/24	506	175	10.92%
4	210 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016	8/23/23-12/31/24	497	310	19.35%
5	25-45 Borden Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101	12/9/23-12/31/24	388	182	11.36%
6	2601 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11235	8/22/23-12/31/24	498	78	4.87%
7	36-11 20th Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11105	8/13/21-2/25/22 8/14/23-10/27/24	900	128	7.99%

8	510 West 41st Street, New York, NY 10018	12/1/22-12/31/24	761	375	23.41%
9	6700 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn 11220 and 8329 Shore Road, Brooklyn 11209 (Bayridge)	8/22/23-12/31/24	498	81	5.06%
10	99-25 Horace Harding Expressway, Flushing NY 11368	6/30/21 - 7/17/21	17	17	1.06%
11	Fort George Avenue/Hillside Ave, New York, NY 10040 (Inwood)	3/12/22 - 11/17/22	250	42	2.62%

Totals (all locations)

During the period from June 2021 through December 31, 2024, the total number of summonses for all locations was 1,602. However, up until August 2023, DEP only had one camera.

During the period from June 2021 through December 31, 2024, the number of summonses issued on a daily basis was fewer than one. During that period, the number of summonses issued on a weekly basis was 2.15. During that period, the total number of summonses issued on a monthly basis was 9.4.

Adjudications

CY 2022 Dispositions (1 camera in program; summons issuance took place for partial year only.)	Total Number: 102 summonses
Defaulted	60
In Violation	28
Dismissed	9
Stipulated	5

CY 2023 Dispositions (9 cameras as of 9/23)	Total Number: 651 summonses
Defaulted	383
In Violation	200
Stipulated	42
Dismissed	24
Adjournment	2

CY 2024 Dispositions (9 cameras)	Total Number: 849 summonses
Defaulted	367
New Issuance/Rescheduled	349
In Violation	83
Stipulated	32
Adjourned	11
Dismissed	7

Note 1: Summonses issued during a calendar year may not be adjudicated within the same calendar year.

Note 2: The majority of dismissals were due to the exception in the state Vehicle and Traffic Law, which allows for horn honking in imminent danger.

Expenses Incurred by the City

The Noise Camera Enforcement Program has operated with increasing investments in staffing and resources to enhance its effectiveness. Below is a summary of the program's personnel costs from CY 2022 to 2024. Below is a summary of the vendor costs from FY 2022 to 2025 (partial).

Personnel Cost by Calendar Year

2022:

- Total Expenditures: \$193,610
- Staffing: 1 Senior Inspector, 2 Inspectors

2023:

- Total Expenditures: \$193,610
- Staffing: 1 Senior Inspector, 2 Inspectors

2024:

- Total Expenditures: \$418,435
- Staffing: 1 Senior Inspector, 6 Inspectors, 1 Administrative Manager

Total Personnel Cost: \$805,655

Vendor Costs by Fiscal Year

The Noise Camera Enforcement Program has partnered with Intelligent Instruments Ltd. to provide equipment, calibration, and service for the noise camera systems. Below is a summary of DEP's costs for equipment and services provided by Intelligent Instruments Ltd. over the past three fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	Description	Amount
FY22	Rental of one Noise Camera System	\$9,940
	Purchase of the Noise Camera System (instead of renting)	\$20,000
FY22 Total		\$29,940
FY23	Annual Service Charge for Data Hosting and Software for the Noise Cameras	\$5,940
	Replacement of Noise Camera/Annual Calibration	\$1,335
	Purchase of 9 Noise Cameras	\$267,750
FY23 Total		\$282,300
FY24	Annual Service Charge for Data Hosting and Software for the Noise Cameras	\$5,940
	Annual Calibration of 10 Noise Cameras	\$8,625
FY24 Total		\$14,565
Total for FY Years 2022-2024		\$326,805

Projected vendor costs for Fiscal Year 2025 are below.

FY25 (Projected)	Calibration and Service for Noise Cameras	\$39,992
	Purchase of 2 Noise Cameras	\$69,100
FY25 Total (Projected)		\$109,092

City Revenue

DEP is working with the Law Department to improve the collection of penalties. In Calendar Year 2022, the penalties imposed amounted to \$62,000 and the amount paid was \$25,000. For Calendar Year 2023, the penalties imposed amounted to \$512,000 and the amount paid was

\$202,000. For Calendar Year 2024, the penalties imposed amounted to \$462,000 and the amount paid was \$113,000.