

## **STATEMENT ON NOISE ORDINANCE**

July 25, 2001

Today joined a majority of my colleagues in voting to support a new ordinance governing noise in the city of Detroit.

Some Council members raised concerns about the lack of a scientific means for measuring noise to determine whether or not it is in violation of the law. They argued that in passing the ordinance without supplying officers with the proper equipment to measure noise levels, officers will have to use subjective opinion. This, they further argued could lead to selective enforcement of the ordinance and possibly harassment by police of young people playing music as they drive their cars, for example.

These concerns are valid but an equally valid concern for the quality of life for our citizens led me to vote in support of this ordinance. I have spoken via telephone and in person with dozens of Detroit residents who complain time and time again of people parking their cars in residential neighborhoods and playing their music at sky high volumes during all hours of the day or night.

While the City, has long had a noise ordinance on the books, that ordinance has not been enforced because the courts have deemed that the language of that ordinance is unconstitutional. In the absence of an enforceable noise ordinance, our citizens have been left with no recourse until now.

Though the risk of selective enforcement is real it is important to note that this risk is present with any ordinance that is enforced by police officers. But this risk can be minimized through thorough training of police officers in how to deal with all facets of the public in different situations.

The new ordinance eliminates the earlier language problems and gives our police officers the tools they need to address the problem of excessive noise in our community. Furthermore, Council has agreed to revisit the ordinance and, if necessary, make additional amendments that address the concerns about lack of scientific measurement at a later date.