



**Rohit T. Aggarwala**  
*Commissioner*

**Beth DeFalco**  
*Deputy Commissioner,  
Public Affairs &  
Communications*

59-17 Junction Blvd.  
Flushing, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 595-5211  
[bdefalco@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:bdefalco@dep.nyc.gov)

August 7, 2023

Hon. Gale Brewer  
New York City Council, 6th District  
563 Columbus Avenue  
New York, New York 10024

Dear Council Member Brewer:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to announce that we are expanding the noise camera enforcement program. This expansion will include two new camera locations on the Upper West Side that your office requested.

Managing noise pollution is a core part of DEP's mission. We receive over 45,000 noise complaints via 311 per year – the largest of any complaint category. Many of the issues are the result of illegally modified car mufflers. Limits on muffler noise are set in the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Enforcement authority for this law is granted to DEP through the New York City Noise Code.

In June 2021, we began piloting camera enforcement as an innovative approach to mitigating noise issues. The camera is paired with a sound meter and activates when the meter detects a noise of at least 85 decibels from a source at least 50 feet away. The only identifying information captured on the video is the vehicles license plate. DEP reviews the evidence and issues a Notice to Appear to the vehicle owner.

In addition to the camera enforcement, DEP has promulgated rules that increased the amount of the fines. As of March 2022, the penalty is \$800 for a first offence, \$1,700 for a second offence, and \$2,500 for further offences.

We learned lessons during the pilot. One camera was picking up noise from trucks on a nearby highway and had to be moved further away. Another camera would take a picture of cars in multiple lanes – making it difficult to discern which vehicle was committing the offense. While we have found them to be an effective tool, cameras are not right for every location.

DEP has received dozens of requests for additional cameras from community leaders across the city. We surveyed the feasibility of every request and evaluated which locations could have the biggest quality-of-life benefits.

Thank you for your advocacy on this issue. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Mario Bruno, Assistant Commissioner of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (718) 595-3519 or [MBruno@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:MBruno@dep.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Beth DeFalco', written over a horizontal line.

Beth DeFalco