

ORDINANCE NO. 088, 2025  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
AMENDING SECTION 225 OF THE FORT COLLINS TRAFFIC CODE TO CLARIFY  
THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS RELATED TO MUFFLERS

A. Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) staff continue to receive numerous reports from community members regarding noise occurrences throughout the City. These reports span a variety of sources including vehicle-related noise complaints.

B. In response, FCPS has reviewed reported incidents and citations related to noise violations from 2023 to 2024. The goal was to assess how effectively current ordinances are being used in enforcement and what code updates would better assist police in enforcement of these violations.

C. Based on this analysis, an amendment to the current muffler ordinance was identified and presented to the Council as an option to consider at the April 22, 2025, work session.

D. Amending the muffler ordinance language in Section 225 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code will enhance clarity and allow police staff to apply the ordinance more effectively during enforcement efforts. Specifically, the ordinance is broken out into sections adding clarity for officers to enforce equipment violations related to noise.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that Section 225 of the Fort Collins Traffic Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**225. - Mufflers.**

- (1) No person shall operate a motor vehicle subject to registration and operated on a roadway without an adequate muffler in constant operation that is properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noise.
- (2) No person shall operate a motor vehicle with a muffler or exhaust system that is equipped with a straight pipe exhaust system, a cut-off, bypass or similar device.
- (3) No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all of the requirements of this Section.

- (4) Any commercial vehicle, as defined in Section 42-4-235, C.R.S., subject to registration and operated on a roadway, that is equipped with an engine compression brake device is required to have a muffler.
- (5) For the purposes of this Section, *muffler* shall mean a device consisting of a series of chamber or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise. *Straight pipe exhaust system* shall mean any straight muffler that does not contain baffles, including but not limited to glass packs, steel packs and straight pipes.
- (6) This Section shall not apply to electric motor vehicles.

Introduced, considered favorably on first reading on May 20, 2025, and approved on second reading for final passage on June 3, 2025.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Effective Date: June 13, 2025  
Approving Attorney: Dawn Downs  
Exhibits: None