



MEMORANDUM
Neighborhood Services

TO: The Honorable Jeff Danner, Chair and Members of City Council
FROM: Dave Metz, Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood Services *DM*
DATE: Meeting of April 16, 2009
SUBJECT: PILOT NEIGHBORHOOD NOISE PROGRAM

Please find attached a memorandum to Mayor Baker regarding the Pilot Neighborhood Noise Program dated March 25, 2009.

CONA and residents have reported that the pilot program has been successful and the Police Department has stepped forward to implement a permanent program.

I look forward to providing the report on April 16th.

DMM/vjs

Attachment

cc: Mayor Baker
Tish Elston
John Wolfe
Susie Ajoc
Eva Andujar



MEMORANDUM
Neighborhood Services

TO: Mayor Baker
FROM: Dave Metz, Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood Services *DM*
DATE: March 25, 2009
SUBJECT: Pilot Neighborhood Noise Program

I wanted to provide an overview of the recent pilot program for noise complaints that was initiated by the City of St. Petersburg in late February 2008.

For background purposes, this pilot program was initiated by the Lakewood Estates Civic Association through application to the Police Department's Forfeiture Fund Program. The program was intended to provide neighborhood associations assistance in addressing citizen complaints involving vehicles and loud music. The City's pilot program was similar to other existing local jurisdiction programs and utilized community volunteers. It also was in addition to routine law enforcement efforts currently underway by the Police Department.

The pilot program provided an opportunity for residents to document incidents and complete standard forms (type of vehicle, license plate number, etc.). This information was then forwarded to the Neighborhood Partnership Department where staff accessed Pinellas County records to verify the vehicle ownership. It was then transferred to the Police Department and a standardized letter (enclosed sample) was issued to the vehicle owner. This letter outlined the date of the incident, location, make/model of vehicle, tag number, nature of the violation of Florida Statutes (Section 316.3045) and a request to comply with the Statutes requirements.

The City's results for the pilot program and law enforcement efforts from February through December 2008 for noise issues were as follows:

	Pilot Program	Police
February	7	N/A
March	73	54
April	68	61
May	35	71
June	27	44
July	27	49
August	17	52
September	25	91
October	45	52
November	29	45
December	33	47

Note: Pilot Program implemented late February 2008

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Judy Ellis, with the Lakewood Estates Civic Association, was instrumental in working with City staff in implementing the pilot program. Ms. Ellis reported that forty (40) residents formed an "informal noise group" to assist in reporting violations. These residents were not only actively involved in reporting the violations, but also maintained communication with Ms. Ellis regarding any issues or concerns with the pilot program. Ms. Ellis recently surveyed the residents regarding the effectiveness of the pilot program and received responses from more than half – all those that responded said that it was a success. Ms. Ellis also reported that one of the benefits was the sense that residents have a "renewed sense of control over their lives and hope that they would be able to regain peace and quiet" in their neighborhoods.

Due to the success of the pilot program, the Police Department is transitioning the pilot into a permanent program in cooperation with CONA. CONA is working closely with City staff in designating a "team" coordinator who will coordinate the program using Police Department resources (e.g. webpage link for complaints, notification of violators, etc). Continuation of the program will allow the Administration to address concerns related to vehicular noise in partnership with residents.

DMM/vjs

Enclosure

cc: Tish Elston
Chief Harmon
Susie Ajoc
Eva Andujar



police department
uniform services bureau

City of St. Petersburg
1300 First Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Telephone 893-7729
Fax 893-7216

March 7, 2008

TO: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On March 4, 2008, a Ford Focus, bearing tag [REDACTED] and registered to you, was observed traveling near the intersection of 54th Avenue South and 16th Street South with the stereo turned up to a volume that exceeds the limit set by law. Florida Statutes Section 316.3045 prohibits the playing of music or any other noise from a vehicle loud enough to be heard at a distance of 25 feet. Persons violating this law are subject to a fine

To avoid further involvement on the part of the St. Petersburg Police Department, and out of respect for those who live around you, we request that you, or the person you authorized to drive your car, reduce the volume of your vehicle stereo.

If you have any questions, please call me at 727-893-7729.

Thank you for your consideration.

Luke C. Williams, Assistant Chief
Uniform Services Bureau
St. Petersburg Police Department

LCW/sa

cc: Neighborhood Partnership Division
Crime Awareness
Accreditation