

Compression Engine Brakes

Wichita Police Department



March 17, 2020



Background

- Neighborhoods on truck routes are subjected to loud brake noises from tractor trailers.
- The noise is most noticeable during common sleeping hours.
- The problem has escalated as the city has grown.

Analysis

- Kansas state statute prohibits engine compression brakes without a muffler.
- States throughout the country have been hesitant to outright ban compression brakes because they are a safety tool in some terrain, especially hills.

Analysis

- While a state statute does exist, the Wichita Police Department cannot write tickets in Municipal Court using a state statute. A local ordinance is required.
- The ordinance makes it unlawful for the driver of any motor vehicle to use any compression release engine braking system without being equipped with a muffler.

Staff Recommendation

5

Place the ordinance on first reading and authorize necessary signatures.

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