



# CITY OF SANTA FE

## Memorandum

**Date:** 9/16/2025

**To:** Governing Body, Quality of Life Committee, Finance Committee

**From:** Benjamin Valdez, Deputy Police Chief

**Via:** Paul Joye, Police Chief; Mark Scott, City Manager; Andrea Phillips, Deputy City Manager

**RE:** STOP Program Updates; Noise Violations, Fines, and Program Administration

---

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This bill would amend SFCC 1987, Section 24-4, “Santa Fe Traffic Operations Program” (“STOP”), to provide for the use of devices that detect sound and issue citations using an automated compliance enforcement system. It would also remove the requirement for police oversight, establish administrative fines for motor-vehicle noise violations, and update the administrative fines for speeding violations.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2008 the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe (“City”) found there was a significant risk to the health and safety of the community from drivers who exceed the posted speed limit. Furthermore, some drivers in Santa Fe repeatedly violate posted speed limits and the state law against speeding is inadequate to preserve public safety in Santa Fe. The Governing Body found that photographic and electronic devices that measure speed were accurate and reliable, and the implementation of this technology would abate the nuisance of speeding.

The City operated an automated speed enforcement program from 2008 until 2013. This program, as currently contemplated in the ordinance, requires oversight by the City of Santa Fe Police Department. Reactivating the program would address an increased demand for enforcement of speeding violations.

Following the 2020 pandemic, communities across our nation have also seen an increase in modified exhausts that have caused a quality of life concerns, due to excessive noise in residential and commercial areas. Santa Fe has not been excluded from this nuisance, with the issue continuing despite increased penalties and enforcement.



# CITY OF SANTA FE

## Memorandum

Cities such as New York City, New York and Chicago, Illinois are currently using sound cameras to locate excessive noise and to enforce noise restrictions. Additionally, Albuquerque, New Mexico has implemented a pilot program with the goal of addressing overly noisy vehicles.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Bill

FIR