

Dear _____

It is harder and harder to get away from unwanted man-made noise. As soon as the temperatures go up, we can finally open our windows to the fresh air. But then out come the motorcycles with their noisy, illegal exhaust systems, some of which that can literally be heard for miles around. Because of people like this, who lack empathy and respect for others, noise ordinances have been created. But it is obvious that most police departments are not effectively enforcing them. Also, asking the offending motorcyclist to reduce their noise levels doesn't work. Most motorcyclists actually believe it's their "right" to make as much noise as they want. So what can we do?

That's a question more and more people have been asking themselves. And the problem of unwanted noise will continue to get worse unless we take action and organize. Perhaps some police departments would take stronger action if enough people made known their objection to loud, obnoxious noise. Call your local police chief. Speak to your area police captain. Attend town meetings. Send a letter to the editor. Call a radio talk show. Do a petition drive. Write a letter to the mayor. Become familiar with your local noise ordinance. Join your neighborhood association and get them involved.

And remember this: the law is on your side. According to the Noise Control Act of 1972, it is a violation of federal law to remove the original motorcycle exhaust system and replace it with a device meant to create noise. And know this: you are not alone with your frustrations. Noise Free America (www.noisefree.org) is a national citizens organization addressing the problem of noise pollution.

Every citizen of the United States deserves peace and quiet. Our local officials and police departments need to take strong action to guarantee Americans' right to the quiet enjoyment of their homes.

Sincerely yours,
Jane Q. Public