



February 28, 2005

Moved by: Regional Councillor Van Bynen

Seconded by: Councillor Emanuel

RESOLUTION R3-2005

WHEREAS the Town of Newmarket is consistently receiving constituent complaints concerning excessive noise and disturbance from heavy trucks using engine retarder brakes while travelling on arterial roads in close proximity to residential neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS in response to similar constituent complaints, many jurisdictions throughout Canada have formally adopted policies and/or regulations pertaining to the use of engine retarder braking systems, including erecting courtesy signs, requesting truckers to avoid use of the brakes when travelling through residential neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS in Ontario alone, several municipalities have adopted the courtesy signage approach, including, but not limited to, the Region of Peel (27 signs), Town of Oakville, Region of Halton, Region of Durham, City of Guelph, County of Lambton, Town of Orangeville, City of Greater Sudbury, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and the County of Wellington;

AND WHEREAS examples of some of the signage include "Quiet Neighbourhood Area – Please Avoid Using Engine Brakes Whenever Possible"; "TRUCKERS – Please Avoid Use of Engine Retarder Brakes"; "Residential Area – Please Limit Exhaust Brake Use"; "Please Avoid Unnecessary Use of Engine Brakes";

AND WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, truck engine retarder brakes are not part of a truck's braking system but, rather, their purpose is to reduce brake wear and tear, and in an emergency situation, application of these brakes provides no additional safety support;

AND WHEREAS arterial roads fall under the jurisdiction of The Regional Municipality of York, which does not currently have a policy for addressing this issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Newmarket:

- (a) to support a program of courtesy signs placed strategically throughout the Town of Newmarket, requesting truckers to eliminate the use of engine retarder brakes, in an effort to mitigate the noise caused by this practice when travelling near or in residential neighbourhoods; and,
- (b) to forward a copy of this Resolution to The Regional Municipality of York with the request that it immediately embark on a courtesy sign initiative that addresses the above concerns and that regional staff liaise with the Town of Newmarket's Director of Public Works and Environmental Services in determining the appropriate locations for such signs.

Mayor Tom Taylor