

Boom Cars: A Noise Weapon

Our nation has a major problem with "boom cars," (cars equipped with loud stereo systems). "Boom cars" have been closely linked to murder, aggression, gangs, and illegal drugs.

"Boom cars" emit High-Intensity/Low-Frequency sound (excessive amounts of bass).

This type of sound is dangerous to health, reduces property values and highway safety, and forces law-abiding citizens to seek quieter locales.

High-Intensity/Low-Frequency sound is harmful to secondary listeners (like us), as well as the occupants of the "boom car" itself. One serious result of High-Intensity/Low-Frequency sound is Vibroacoustic Disease -- which is deadly.

In addition, some CDs used in "boom cars" produce a very low frequency level -- infrasound. Infrasound is deadly -- and has been used by the U.S. as a weapon. "Boom car" Web sites and "boom car" operators pride themselves on their use of infrasound.

"Boom car" drivers are truly audio terrorists.

Car stereo companies make billions of dollars a year selling powerful amplifiers and sub-woofers. Their stereo advertisements proudly encourage a "boom car" owner to "disturb the peace," defy authority, cause heart attacks in people over 40, refuse to turn the volume down, rattle people "from their cages of complacency," let neighbors FEEL you coming as well as hear you, buy sub-woofers that pop and bleed eardrums, buy amplifiers so powerful they can "blow the scalp off your head," and bolt on "performance they'll hear a mile away."

Noise is the # 1 reason people move.

The number # 1 killer of teenagers is car accidents. One of the # 1 reasons for teenage car accidents are driver distractions, such as the radio or CD player.

Driver distractions account for 25-50% of all auto accidents in the U.S.

High-Intensity/Low-Frequency sound decreases a driver's peripheral vision, masks the sounds of emergency vehicle sirens (such as ambulances), and contributes to road rage and aggression.

Take a teenager, who is an inexperienced driver, put him in a automobile weighing over 2,000 pounds. Add a powerful stereo system, loud exhaust system, and a hunger to prove himself to his peers...

This does not spell highway safety!!

Strict noise ordinances, stiff fines, and penalties help curb and eliminate "boom cars" and the crime-related activities associated with them. In addition, public awareness and education on the hazards of this type of noise is essential. It is tragic when law-enforcement personnel and city officials view this type of noise pollution as a "lesser offense" and, as a result, do not respond adequately.

NYC, Chicago, and other concerned cities are adopting stiff penalties and getting "boom cars" off their streets -- thereby providing peace and safety to their citizens. Recently, Youngstown, OH has adopted the policy of impounding "boom cars" and jail time for noise offenders.

The "right to quiet" is a RIGHT -- not just a privilege.

Cities and neighborhoods proactive in quality of life issues are neighborhoods heading in a positive direction for a healthy economic and domestic growth!

Working together, we CAN reclaim peace, quiet, and safety for each American city, community and neighborhood!