

Barry Golner
Interim Superintendent

Mark LeBlanc
Deputy Superintendent

To: Eileen Donoghue *EMD*
City Manager

From: Barry Golner *B.G. 3/30/22*
Interim Superintendent of Police

Date: March 30, 2022

Re: City Council Motion Response

Councilor Gitschier – Require City Manager Look Into Purchasing Handheld Decibel (DB) Meters For All Police Cruisers To Enforce The City’s Noise Ordinance (Chapter 204).

There are two areas of enforcement in which objectionable noises can be regulated by the police. The first are those noises deemed harsh and objectionable from a motor vehicle contrary to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90 section 16. Under this law, the police can stop a motor vehicle for loud or defective exhaust systems, loud stereos or any other type of bell, horn or other device which causes a hash, objectionable or unreasonable noise. In the case of a motor vehicle issue, the police do not need a decibel meter, an officer would only need to hear/witness the violation in person. An officer is then justified in pulling the motor vehicle over and if warranted, issue a motor vehicle citation for the offense.

With regard to the actual use of a decibel meter, we would utilize the deployment of a meter for calls relating to loud music at a home, apartment, an establishment or other venue holding a function in which a complaint of excessive noise is made. For these cases, we have deployed a decibel meter in the past. The police department did have a meter on loan from inspectional services. We have not had one in some time. I would agree that we should purchase a few units to have on hand and be ready and able to deploy a decibel meter if the situation arises. We have in the past deployed the meter on an as need basis when receiving a call for service. For the most part they had been deployed at downtown liquor establishments in response to crowds and music. I did do some research on decibel meters for law enforcement. They can range from just over one hundred dollars to twenty-four hundred dollars. I enclosed a Grainger meter photograph along with the technical specs on the product for your review. The enclosed meter is priced at one hundred and seventy-nine dollars and twenty-eight cents. The police department would be able to fund the purchase of enough meters to have adequate coverage if needed.



EXTECH

Sound Level Meter, 31.5 to 8000 Hz

Item #453A53 Mfr. Model #SL510
UNSPSC #60104808 Catalog Page #N/A

Country of Origin Taiwan. Country of Origin is subject to change.

Web Price
\$179.28 / each

Qty
1

Add to Cart

Ship Pickup

Expected to arrive **Wed. Mar 30** - **Thu. Mar 31**.

Ship to 01844 | [Change](#)

Shipping Weight 0.53 lbs

[Ship Availability Terms](#)

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Technical Specs

Item	Sound Level Meter	Microphone Size	1/2 in
Units	2	Standards	CE
dB Range	35 to 130 dB	Operating Temp. Range	32 Degrees to 122 Degrees F
Frequency Range	31.5 Hz to 8 kHz	Built-In	Data Hold and Min/Max Function
Frequency Weighting	A and C	Battery Type	(3) AAA
Accuracy	+/-1 dB	Includes	(3) AAA Batteries, Microphone Wind Screen, Wrist Strap
Resolution	0.1 dB	Calibration Certificate	No
Display	Backlit LCD	Manufacturers Warranty Length	1 yr
Counts	2,000		
Response Time	Fast/Slow		
Microphone Type	Electret Condenser		

Compliance and Restrictions

This item is restricted for international sale.

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