

# News For Thought



## Loud Bikes Loose Rights

Municipalities from coast to coast are giving motorcycles the silent treatment, and riders rights groups and industry analysts fear that a wave of ordinances aimed at muffling noisy bikes will create a confusing patchwork of laws nationwide and could turn frustrated riders away from the \$12 billion motorcycle marketplace.

Laws restricting motorcycle noise have been around for years and come in many forms; some are against certain types of products such as a New York City ordinance that subjects riders to a minimum \$400 ticket for having an exhaust system that can be heard within 200 feet, while others are aimed more at the intent of the operator such as a Lancaster, Penn., ordinance that makes it illegal for riders to over-rev their engines.

In Denver, which passed a unique muffler law three years ago that requires EPA labeling to be displayed on pipes to prevent bikers from installing louder after-market exhausts, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) attorney Wade Eldridge was recently quoted in a local CBS-4 story investigating the controversial attempt to reduce noise emissions.

Eldridge, who specializes in representing motorcycle riders in accident and insurance law cases and who is a rider himself, was quoted in the July 23rd interview as saying: "I think it (the Denver loud noise law) was something the city council passed that they knew was unenforceable," and suggested that to fight back "those who receive tickets should demand trials."

Though rarely enforced since Eldridge won a key case against the Denver noise ordinance, with only 46 tickets handed out to date, police in Golden citing state law have issued 81 noise violations in the last 6 months. The city is using a Colorado state statute, C.R.S. 42-4-225 that requires that vehicles be equipped with an "adequate" muffler, and outlaws any "excessive or unusual" noise. According to Eldridge, "the law lends itself to arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement -- the police can stop you for whatever reason."

"The powers that be in the City of Golden have apparently made a political decision that they don't want us in their city," observed Eldridge, adding that; "The police department will continue stopping us, and writing these tickets, until enough people PLEAD NOT GUILTY AND INSIST ON A TRIAL... when the court is backlogged with these cases, we will see some official pressure to stop them."

In the meantime, further information on fighting such tickets can be found on the website of the Colorado Confederation of Clubs ([www.colorado-coc.com](http://www.colorado-coc.com)), of which Eldridge serves as legal counsel. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

## Keystone Motorcycle Safety Campaign

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced a free online program celebrating the freedom of motorcycling called the "Live Free Ride Alive" program. "The campaign reminds riders to take it easy out there and accept personal responsibility for their actions," said a PennDOT spokesperson. "It addresses issues of drinking and riding, speeding, and being properly trained and licensed to operate a motorcycle."

Pennsylvania riders can enhance their operating skills and safety awareness by taking free training offered through Pennsylvania's Motorcycle Safety Program. The live courses are free to Pennsylvania residents and are held from March through October at approximately 70 sites across the state. Motorcycle permit holders who successfully complete the course will be issued a motorcycle license. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

New Jersey Lawmakers Introduce Federal Gang Legislation According to information recently circulated by ABATE of the Garden State, New Jersey congressional representatives are pushing new federal legislation to deter gang activity.

In early August, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) introduced one bill in the U.S. Senate while Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th Dist.) introduced a version in the House of Representatives.

The legislation claims to address "criminal street gang problems" from several angles. It would fund billions of dollars in programs for at-risk youth, including \$5.5 billion in grants for state and federal programs. Menendez and Pallone also want \$3.5 billion in grants over five years for police departments to fight gangs.

The legislation would also create or increase federal penalties for gang activities. For example, engaging in a "pattern of criminal gang activity" - meaning committing two or more crimes related to gang membership - could send someone to prison for up to 30 years. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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## Weird News: Pyramid Power Used To Stop Traffic Accidents

Since the days of ancient Egypt, pyramids have been credited with supernatural or paranormal properties, and now their putative powers are being harnessed by Indian police to reduce road accidents.

After meeting with an expert in Vastu, an ancient Hindu system of construction similar to Chinese Feng Shui, traffic officers in Nagpur are strategically installing small pyramids at accident-prone sites in the city in hopes their claimed positive energy can stop deadly crashes.

Vastu expert Sushil Fatehpuria, who offered his services free of charge, said that each 30 centimetre tall pyramid will have a copper bottom and five smaller pyramids inside. "I think the accidents are caused by negative energies. So we need to minimize or convert the negative energy into positive ones," he said. "I will energize the pyramids. I will transfer my positive thoughts into the pyramids."

A combination of an increase in drivers, many of them untrained, poor road planning and lax law enforcement have made India's roads the most dangerous in the world, with more than 114,000 fatalities each year. Good Luck! [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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## Education Cycles

The United States has donated 115 motorcycles worth \$524,398 to an African educational center that coordinates tutors in the Uganda cities of Lango, Acholi and Teso.

The motorcycles were handed over by the U.S. Agency for International Development to Uganda team leader, Elise Ayers, at Asuret Core Primary Teachers College in Soroti in May. Ayers said the motorcycles would enable the tutors make a minimum of three visits to each school in a term to mentor and provide professional support to teachers. [www.ON-A-BIKE.com](http://www.ON-A-BIKE.com)

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