

# WARNING!

## Car Alarms Harm Our Children

**Dozens of scientific studies\* show how loud noise is harmful to children**

Studies show that a child does not have to suffer hearing loss to experience the harmful effects of loud noise.

\* In one controlled study, children in noisier schools were found to be 3 to 4 months behind in reading comprehension than children in quieter ones<sup>1</sup>

\* In a study in Washington Heights, children living on the lower, noisier floors of an apartment building were found to have poorer reading ability than children on higher floors<sup>2</sup>

\* Even children in small Austrian villages were found to suffer from anxiety and depression due to noise<sup>3</sup>. Imagine the impact of blaring car alarms on children in New York!

**In fact, the harmful effects of loud noise listed here occur at levels far below that of a car alarm.**



In well-designed scientific studies of primary school children, NOISE has repeatedly been found to cause:

- **Diminished reading comprehension**
- Poorer performance on standardized tests
- **Impaired cognitive performance**
- Diminished long-term memory
- **Decreased motivation** (learned helplessness, particularly in girls)
- **Difficulties in concentrating**
- Poor persistence in finishing tasks
- **Poorer speech perception** (this loss cannot be reversed)
- **Anxiety and depression**
- Poorer school performance overall
- **Stress**, as measured by increased endocrine levels in the blood

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**What Can You Do?** Ask City Council Speaker Gifford Miller to Support a Bill to **Ban Car Alarms in New York City**

<sup>1</sup> Bronzaft and McCarthy 1975 <sup>2</sup> Cohen et. al. 1973 <sup>3</sup> Lercher et. al., 2001 More information on these studies can be found at [www.silentmajorityNY.org](http://www.silentmajorityNY.org)

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## To protect your children...

**Children are particularly vulnerable to the danger posed by blaring car alarms.** While it's true that noise is part of the price we pay for living in a big city, car alarms are especially harmful because they are 'variable' noise (not constant) and therefore **harder to tune out**. What's worse, many new car alarms exceed 125 decibels. This is **louder than a jet airplane** taking off 200 feet away and twice the volume of a loud dance club.

## Support a bill to ban car alarms in New York

A bill currently before the New York City Council proposes to ban *audible* car alarms. Support is growing because, beyond all the effects on our children, **car alarms have been proven not to work**. Yes, it's true. They don't prevent car theft. (This is because car theft has become professionalized in the last 20 years, and car alarms do not deter pros; some 95-99% of alarms are false, so people don't respond to them. The largest study of car alarms that looked at 73 million insurance claims found "no overall reduction in theft losses.") The good news is that they're easily removable.

**Silent car alarms are affordable — and far more effective.**

## Make one phone call to save your child

- 1.** Call Gifford Miller, City Council Speaker, at 212-788-7210 and urge him to support the car alarm ban.
- 2.** Send your e-mail to [banalarms@yahoo.com](mailto:banalarms@yahoo.com) to learn more about future events and actions.
- 3.** Urge your friends to do the same.

# ...BAN CAR ALARMS TODAY!

To learn more, go to [www.silentmajorityny.org](http://www.silentmajorityny.org)