



Dear Citizens,

In recent weeks, it is undeniable that the noise and disruption from SpaceX has grown significantly. You are concerned and we are concerned. The Council is aware and we are working with SpaceX to resolve the problem.

For all the great things that SpaceX has done and has brought to our City, we recognize that this “goodwill” is difficult to maintain in the midst of a house-shaking engine test. As SpaceX has transitioned from the manufacturing and testing of Merlin engines to Raptor engines, the noise and vibration has grown significantly. For context, Raptor engines will power SpaceX’s Starship—the world’s most powerful launch vehicle ever developed that will carry people to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

We reported to you during the summer that the noise and vibrations would dissipate as SpaceX completed the construction and implementation of a new vertical test stand. This new vertical test stand is in contrast to the horizontal stand that has been used over the past several years. The new vertical test stand is operational and is in constant use. It consists of two bays—the first is fully operational and the second is currently in work.

When engines are tested on the vertical stand, we feel and hear nothing more than a low rumble—what we have grown accustomed to over the years and it is neither disruptive or harmful. However, as we all know about SpaceX, the company moves and changes with the speed of a rocket—it’s part of what makes them one of the most fascinating and technologically advanced companies in the world and why they are leading the space race, while others are simply trying to keep up.

Because the second bay of the vertical test stand is not yet complete, what we have felt and heard most recently is one of these large Raptor II engines being tested on the horizontal stand. The rumble that you hear, feel, and see the effects of, is a low frequency sound. It is not high decibel noise, nor is it ground vibration. This issue is often compounded by the weather which can amplify this noise, particularly in the winter months.

Again, we are aware of the problem and SpaceX is aware of the problem. SpaceX has informed the Council that they are pushing to complete the second vertical test bay as soon as possible to further reduce the noise. This will take some time though and a significant sum of SpaceX money. In addition, the issue is likely to be at its worst over the next 2-3 weeks, but this will mean a faster reduction to the noise impact overall. The Council will continue to monitor progress on this effort and share updates with the McGregor community.

Over the years, SpaceX has been a first class corporate citizen and they have been true to their word. I fully believe that when they say they are going to fix an issue, they will do so. Please do your best to be patient as the current situation is resolved. In the meantime, if you experience problems or have other concerns, you are free to contact SpaceX through a designated email address that is regularly monitored: communityrelations@spacex.com

Sincerely,

Jimmy Hering, Mayor