

From: [Dave Fox](#)
To: [Licensing and Standards Committee](#)
Cc: [John \(Ward 4\) Campbell](#)
Subject: My comments for 2016.LS11.2 on May 19, 2016 Licensing and Standards Committee
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 9:19:28 AM

To the City Clerk: Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 19, 2016 Licensing and Standards Committee meeting on item 2016.LS11.2, Chapter 591, Noise - Amendments After Further Consultation, I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

My name is Dave Fox, General Manager of Islington Golf Club (IGC). IGC is a golf club located in central Etobicoke and surrounded by residential neighbours. The club has been in operation since 1923. We are proud of the relationship we have with our neighbours and recognize the importance of managing issues of mutual interest. Although there have been very few complaints, noise that emanates from normal golf course maintenance is such an issue. We have made operational changes to mitigate noise but it is essential to our business that some daily turf maintenance starts before 7:00am between April and November.

The proposed amending by-law makes no reference to golf but vaguely exposes our business to complaints should a resident feel noise "disturbs their quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience" before 7:00am on weekdays and before 9:00am on weekends and holidays. Daily maintenance of most putting greens must commence before 7:00 am. Other operations, such as leaf blowing, fairway and rough cutting can be delayed.

The City of Ottawa, Noise By-law 2004-253 includes a similar prohibition respecting power equipment but includes an exemption for golf courses:

POWER EQUIPMENT		
15.	(1)	No person shall operate or cause to be operated any power equipment such as chain saws, power lawn mowers, leaf blowers, power tools or other similar devices, between 2100 hours of one day and 0700 hours of the next day the noise from which disturbs or tends to disturb the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, or persons in the vicinity.
	(2)	Despite subsection (1), no person shall operate or cause to be operated any power equipment before 0900 hours on any Saturday, Sunday, statutory or public holiday.
	(3)	Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a person operating power equipment used for the purpose of maintaining a golf course.

I respectfully petition the Committee to consider a similar exemption in the by-law amendment that is before you. Alternatively, a specific, measurable maximum sound pressure that would enable normal use of modern equipment could be established. We are willing to work with staff to develop solutions that balance the interests at issue and enable our continued viability as an urban green space.

IGC is not averse to noise regulation and supports standards that recognize the reality that urban golf operations may present a minor nuisance to adjacent residents. We acknowledge that nuisance must be managed. We prioritize the noise performance of any equipment we procure. We will continue to respond sensitively to complaints but, like any business, we need clarity and certainty that we are in compliance with the law.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Fox, CCM, CCE
General Manager
Islington Golf Club
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