



REPORT FOR ACTION

Chapter 591, Noise By-law Review: Working Group and Noise Monitoring Study

Date: September 7, 2016

To: Licensing and Standards Committee

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards

Wards: All

SUMMARY

At its meeting of May 19, 2016, Licensing and Standards Committee deferred consideration of the report proposing amendments to Chapter 591, Noise with a request for staff to establish a working group with representatives from the Toronto Noise Coalition, Residents Associations, construction and entertainment business associations, BIAs and other relevant stakeholders and report back to the September meeting.

This report proposes that Licensing and Standards Committee refer the noise review back to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to convene the Noise Working Group and report back with proposed amendments to Chapter 591, Noise, after the Noise Working Group has completed its review and Toronto Public Health has completed its Noise Monitoring Study.

The Noise Working Group will start meeting in the fall of 2016 and will complete its review in 2017. The Noise Working Group will provide advice and recommendations on Chapter 591, Noise.

Toronto Public Health is conducting a Noise Monitoring Study to provide current data on the levels of noise in the City and identify potential health effects associated with exposure to environmental noise. Toronto Public Health anticipates reporting to the Board of Health on its findings in the spring of 2017. The outcomes of the Noise Monitoring Study will be used by the Noise Working Group in providing advice and recommendations to amend Chapter 591, Noise.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. Licensing and Standards Committee refer the noise review to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to convene the Noise Working Group and report

back with proposed amendments to Chapter 591, Noise after the Noise Working Group has completed its review and Toronto Public Health has completed its Noise Monitoring Study.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 19, 2016, Licensing and Standards Committee deferred consideration of the report headed "Chapter 591, Noise - Amendments After Further Consultation" and requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to establish a working group with representatives from the Toronto Noise Coalition, Residents' Associations, construction and entertainment business associations, BIAs and other relevant stakeholders and report back to its September 21, 2016 meeting. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.LS11.2>

At its meeting of January 22, 2016, Licensing and Standards Committee directed the Executive Director, ML&S to report back with revised amendments to Chapter 591, Noise. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.LS9.1>

COMMENTS

Chapter 591, Noise provides standards for various types of noise and applies those standards to all properties within the City of Toronto.

At the May 19, 2016 meeting of Licensing and Standards Committee, staff submitted a report proposing amendments to Chapter 591, Noise after conducting additional consultations with stakeholders.

Licensing and Standards Committee deferred consideration of the revised Noise By-law and requested that staff convene a Working Group and report back to its September 21, 2016 meeting.

Noise Working Group

The Working Group will be comprised of representatives from the Toronto Noise Coalition, resident associations, construction and entertainment business associations and organizations, business improvement areas (BIAs), City staff and other relevant

stakeholders. The aim is to convene these various stakeholders to facilitate an open discussion about how noise is governed in the City. The Working Group will start by reviewing the City's most recent staff report from May 2016 containing proposed amendments to Chapter 591, Noise. Their review will identify areas of concern in the by-law and opportunities for improvement. At the conclusion of the review, the Noise Working Group will provide its advice and recommendations on noise by-law amendments to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards.

Toronto Public Health Noise Monitoring Study

In response to resident concerns about the health effects of noise in the City, Toronto Public Health is currently undertaking a comprehensive Noise Monitoring Study.

Toronto Public Health staff plan to present findings to the Board of Health in the spring of 2017. The study is expected to provide data on current levels of noise in the City as well as identify potential health effects associated with exposure to environmental noise.

ML&S staff are participating in the Noise Monitoring Study and TPH staff are participating on the Noise Working Group. The outcomes of the Noise Monitoring Study will be used by the Noise Working Group to develop amendments to Chapter 591, Noise.

ML&S will report back to Licensing and Standards Committee with proposed amendments to the Noise By-law in 2017.

CONTACT

Carleton Grant
Director, Policy and Strategic Support
Municipal Licensing and Standards
416-338-5576
cgrant@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Tracey Cook, Executive Director
Municipal Licensing and Standards