

LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.
Box 45031, 2482 Yonge Street
Toronto, M4P 3E3

April 25, 2016

To: Councillor Christin Carmichael-Greb

By Email: Councillor_CarmichaelGreb@toronto.ca

SUBJECT: Noise Bylaw

Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc. ("LPRO") represents approximately 2,400 households in the Lytton Park area bounded by Avenue Road, Lawrence Avenue West, Yonge Street and Roselawn Avenue.

We write to express concern regarding proposed revisions to the noise by-law to be considered by the Municipal Licensing & Standards Committee on May 19th.

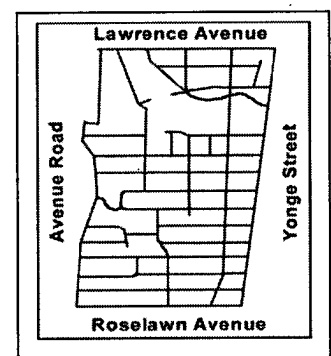
New York City has a comprehensive noise by-laws it's time for Toronto to establish similar by-laws. Noise is a public health issue affecting Torontonians' quality of life. LPRO supports the 7- Point Solution set out on the attached flyer.

On behalf of the membership of the LPRO, we ask that you help Toronto establish new comprehensive noise bylaws.

Sincerely,

Arlena Hebert
President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization
Email: LyttonParkResidentsOrg@gmail.com

Cc- Mayor John Tory, Councillor Jaye Robinson, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health –Toronto Public Health, Municipal and Licensing Committee



NOISE ALERT

HELP IMPROVE TORONTO'S NOISE BYLAW!

Toronto's Noise bylaw needs to address your concerns. 82.5% of respondents to the City's April 2015 noise consultation indicated noise problems in their ward. The most common noise impacts, in addition to general disturbance, were sleep loss/insomnia and stress.

City Hall's proposed noise by-law revisions ignore Torontonians' concerns. Judging from city staff's January recommendations they have:

- **Removed existing noise bylaw safeguards;**
- **Weakened noise protection provisions, and;**
- **Weakened protection of Torontonians' health and quality of life.**

Problems if the Noise bylaw is not improved:

- Insufficient enforcement staff who are unavailable after normal business hours;
- A lost opportunity to control the City's growing construction noise;
- Loud amplified music from bars & large concerts booming into homes and city parks;
- Loss of protection from many noise sources between 7AM and 11 PM;
- Noisy motorcycles thundering unrestricted through city streets;
- Leaf blowers blasting away calm and tranquility of residential neighbourhoods at any time of day;
- 24/7 HVAC equipment noise and vibration disturbances from supermarkets, condos and offices.

Why is the City not listening to Toronto Public Health's August 28, 2015 memo stating:

"While noise has typically been controlled to address quality of life issues and noise-induced hearing loss, there is evidence that exposure to noise also has impacts on health at levels below which impacts on hearing acuity occur. These adverse health effects could occur at levels below 50 dBA.

A quality outdoor environment can support more active living (more walking or cycling, or active recreation). Limiting average outdoor noise levels to below 55 dBA (daytime) is therefore desirable for health.

Keeping levels of noise below the provincial Environmental Noise Guideline (NPC-300) is desirable as sleep disturbance has been shown to occur at levels as low as 32 dBA".

A 7 - POINT SOLUTION (posted below)

TAKE ACTION NOW

- **Email Mayor Tory** urging him to emulate New York City's Mayor Bloomberg and enact a comprehensive noise by-law protecting Torontonians' quality of life.
- **Email your City Councillor** tell them about your noise concerns and advocate for the **7 Point Solution**.
- **Email the ML&S Committee members** advocate for a comprehensive and effective noise bylaw.
- **Email Toronto's Medical Officer of Health** ask him to help regulate harmful noise

Attend the May 19, L&S Hearing at City Hall and voice your opinion.

Toronto's noise bylaw must reflect the City's changing landscape and advances in acoustic technology. New York City's Noise Code shows it is possible and necessary to support the 24/7 business and entertainment life of a truly great city while enacting and enforcing effective noise regulations to reduce unwanted and harmful sound.

Toronto needs to follow New York City's example.

A 7 - POINT SOLUTION		
1.	Declaration of Policy	Like New York City, clearly state the Noise By-law's purpose is protecting Torontonians' health and quality of life.
2	General Provision	Retain the General Provision for 24/7 protection from vibrations and sound of such a volume or nature that it is likely to disturb City inhabitants.
3.	Amplified Sound	Replace, improve and enforce the specific prohibition of amplified noise projected beyond a property line onto streets or public places including City parks for loud-speakers and other problematic noise sources such as leaf blowers and motorcycles.
4.	Construction	Toronto will be "under construction" for years. Follow New York City's regulations. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require Noise Mitigation Plans for all construction work. • Prohibit construction except for owner-occupied homes on weekends and statutory holidays from May to October
5.	Mechanical Equipment	Include standards and regulate disruptive noise from HVAC equipment and compressors.
6	Exceptions	Must be considered a privilege not a right and restrict hours and amplified sound levels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer "Series approvals" only to applicants with good records with an upper limit of three at a time. • Require Noise Mitigation Plans for all exceptions • Limit the number of permits approved in any park each year • Set an end time of 10 pm for events in neighbourhood parks.
7.	Enforcement	City Council must increase investment for effective and timely enforcement 24/7 and authorize police and by-law enforcement officers to issue summonses, tickets and notices for Noise By-law violations.