

From: [Jeffrey](#)
To: [Mayor Tory](#); [Licensing and Standards Committee](#); [Medical Officer of Health](#); [Tracey Cook](#)
Subject: RE: Noise Bylaw
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 12:28:58 PM

Dear Mayor Tory:

The basis of any by-law regarding noise should be that people have a right to silence. We have a right to natural sounds. The basis of a noise by-law should not be that the making of noise is a right and that silence is the exception. It is my view that the making of noise should be the exception and not the norm.

Noise is of course inevitable in a community, but any noise making activity should be scrutinized to determine whether it is for the good of the community. If a noise making activity is solely for private profit or a whim of an individual or group of individuals, then the onus should be on the noise makers to show that their activity is in the public good.

This means that people should not have the unfettered right to disturb neighbors with loud music, buskers should not have the right to set up amplifiers on streets to ply their trade, stores and restaurants should not have the right to mount speakers on the outside walls of their businesses to blast music into the street and bars should not have the right to put on musical entertainment that can be heard by people outside of their premises. All such unwanted noise constitutes an assault and should be seen as such.

The by-law should be set up such that the city has an active role in ensuring that the right to live undisturbed is considered the norm. This in turn means that the city must be actively engaged in enforcement of laws that guarantee the right to live undisturbed. While the city must respond to complaints, a complaint driven approach to enforcement is inadequate. Noise should be dealt with the same way as any other breach of public peace which means active involvement of the authorities to educate, regulate and enforce and not merely to respond to complaints.

Unwanted noise is an assault. It causes harm and it serves to cause friction between residents. Often it is meant to offend and cause friction. Unwanted noise unravels the fabric of social cohesion. It should be taken seriously.

Best regards,
Jeffrey Canto-Thaler

Canto Thaler
Barristers and Solicitors
412 Roncesvalles Avenue
Suite 224
Toronto, Ontario
M6R 2N2

T: 416.351.1628
e: jeffrey@cantothaler.ca

