

LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.
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April 5, 2018

Via Email: lsc@toronto.ca

Licensing and Standards Committee
 Committee Room 1, City Hall
 100 Queen Street West, Toronto ON M5H 2N2

RE: LS24.1 NOISE BY-LAW UPDATE

Dear Chair and Members:

We have reviewed the City's reports and its evaluation by the Toronto Noise Coalition which includes several of our board members. The Medical Officer of Health and the City's consultations and studies prove that Toronto's noise levels are problematic with increased complaints. We understand that noise complaints have increased by 300%. The "Night Economy" proposals will make it worse. We need a new noise bylaw regime. Leading cities like New York have shown that effective noise regulation improves economic development while protecting health.

On a number of occasions, the Toronto Noise Coalition, residents and businesses have recommended effective solutions. Lack of funding is no excuse for inaction. After two years of study and eight months of the Noise Working Group's efforts we are urging you do the following:

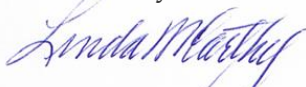
- **Abandon** the proposed 2016 By-law, stop tinkering with out of date thinking and learn from applicable forward-thinking best practices;
- **Ban mechanized mowers** and leaf blowers in residential neighbourhoods April to October;
- **Require noise mitigation measures** on construction sites including neighbourhood infill;
- **Ban** portable gas generators when Hydro hook-up is available;
- **Require** unit air conditioners to meet WHO standards at property lines;
- **Allocate sufficient funds** for the new by-law. Hire experts in the field and make investments to craft an effective noise bylaw addressing Toronto's 21st century issues and using advances in acoustic technology and best practices.

Toronto requires a tough noise management system with:

- **Effective regulations** – a general provision stating its objective to be protecting Torontonians' health and well-being from excessive noise, clear and enforceable regulations setting out objective standards for locations, noise levels, applicable time periods, and measurement, all clearly described for citizens and noise emitters to comply;
- **Effective mitigation measures** – with criteria publicly developed and available and related to the activity and its location;
- **Effective exemption process** – with criteria publicly developed, publicly available and requiring mitigation measures, with notice of application and approval provided to neighbouring organizations and locations, and approved exemptions posted on site; and
- **Effective enforcement** – Put the onus on the noise emitters to comply, with adequate staffing and availability, including an effective Offences and Penalties Program to offset costs, and monitoring of results.

New York City's experience shows it is possible to support a city's 24/7 business and entertainment life, and still protect citizens from unreasonable noise. However, it does require political will and leadership.

Your truly,



Linda McCarthy

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