

## Attachment B: Summary of Noise Data

## EC3.6 Attachment B

### General Noise Complaints

#### 1. Annual Number of Noise Complaints Received by Municipal Licensing and Standards

Year	General Noise Complaints from Private Property	Amplified Noise from Licensed Establishments	Animal Noise	Total Noise Related Service Requests
2015	8,363	667	2,267	11,297
2016	7,402	640	2,004	10,046
2017	8,399	638	2,028	11,065
2018	10,154	761	2,059	12,974

#### 2. Annual General Noise Complaints from Private Property – By Type of Noise

Year	Construction Noise	Loud Music	General Noise	Mechanical Noise	Other	Air Conditioner Noise	Total
2015	3,468	2,203	949	808	780	155	8,363
2016	3,559	1,500	698	850	637	158	7,402
2017	3,742	2,107	829	771	798	152	8,399
2018	3,845	2,954	1,180	895	1,142	138	10,154

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### Amplified Sound/Loud Music

#### 3. Amplified Sound – Public Opinion Research

- When asked to identify the most bothersome type of noise:
  - 19% of respondents identified noise from residential houses (for example music, parties, etc.)
  - 7% of respondents identified noise from bars and restaurants as the most bothersome.
  - 5% of respondents identified noise from outdoor music concerts as the most bothersome.
- When asked what type of noise should be the most restricted, 8% of respondents believe it should be loud music.
- Nearly eight in ten (77%) residents agree that decibels should be used to measure how loud an event or object is.
- In the event that a noise complaint is made, nearly three in four (73%) say that they are comfortable with a bylaw officer entering their property to assess the noise.

#### 4. Amplified Sound/Loud Music – Exemption Permits

Year	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Granted	Number of Applications Refused
2015	329	317	3
2016	422	395	20
2017	570	546	8
2018	622	585	23

Note: The number of applications refused and granted does not equal the number of applications received as some applications are abandoned.

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### Construction Noise

#### 5. Construction Noise – Public Opinion Research

- Building (34%) and home (26%) construction noise are mentioned as the most bothersome sources of noise in Toronto among residents.
- When asked what type of noise should be the most restricted, 31% of residents perceive noise from construction, or heavy equipment, to be the most pressing to restrict.
- When asked the acceptability of noise at night:
  - 64% of residents accept the construction of transportation infrastructure (such as fixing roads/building transit at night to speed up completion);
  - 60% of residents accept construction activities that cannot stop once they have started (e.g. continuous concrete pouring);
  - 33% of residents accept construction of commercial buildings; and
  - 30% of residents accept construction of residential buildings.
- Torontonians believe that during the week it is acceptable for noise to begin shortly after 8:00AM, and end just before 7:30PM

#### 6. Construction Noise – Exemption Permits

Year	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Granted	Number of Applications Refused
2015	132	102	28
2016	148	110	37
2017	184	132	42
2018	248	177	58

Note: The number of applications refused and granted does not equal the number of applications received as some applications are abandoned.

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### Motor Vehicles

#### 7. Motor Vehicle Noise – Public Opinion Research

- When asked to identify the most bothersome type of noise (choose up to 3):
  - 21% of respondents identified motorcycle noise
  - 21% of respondents identified alarm sounds (for example: car alarms, fire alarms)
  - 18% of respondents identified traffic noise
- When asked to identify the most important types of noise to be restricted (open-ended response):
  - 7% of respondents identified vehicle noise (cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc.)
  - 5% of respondents identified traffic noise

#### 8. Motor Vehicles - Motorcycle Noise Complaints

Year	Number of Complaints
2015	10
2016	24
2017	13
2018	10

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### Power Devices

#### 9. Power Devices – Public Opinion Research on Leaf Blowers

- 11% of residents say leaf blowers should be banned.

#### 10. Power Devices – Leaf Blower Noise Complaints

Year	Number of Complaints
2015	52
2016	27
2017	28
2018	50

### Unreasonable Noise

#### 11. Unreasonable Noise – Public Opinion Research

- Overall, a majority (64%) of residents believe that noise levels in the City of Toronto are reasonable and reflect life in a big city, while a minority (36%) of residents believe that more needs to be done to restrict noise because of potential negative health consequences.
- Below are the percentage of residents who strongly or somewhat agree with the following statements:
  - 28% - "I am not okay with loud noise for any event, at any time of day."
  - 39% - "Noise should not disturb residents at any time of day."
  - 50% - "I am concerned about the negative health impacts that might be caused by excessive noise."
  - 51% - "The City of Toronto should do more to restrict the creation of excessive noise."
  - 53% - "The level of noise in the city of Toronto today is acceptable to me."
  - 76% - "Noise is a normal part of living in a big city."
  - 80% - "I think that loud noise is okay sometimes, for a special event or construction, but not all the time."