



September 16, 2020

Chair Councillor Pasternak and Members
Infrastructure and Environment Committee

IE15.8 - Request to Study the Environmental Impact of Two-Stroke Engine Garden Equipment

The Toronto Noise Coalition (TNC) urges your Committee to support the undertaking of a study of the impact of two-stroke engine garden equipment as set out in the motion recommended by Councillor Shelley Carroll, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak.

The TNC was established in 2016 to help provide a voice for residents across the City in the development of a new noise bylaw. Unfortunately, our recommendations were ignored with respect to the banning the use of two- stroke engine garden equipment because of their environmental and health hazards. The new nose bylaw only restricts of hours of operation. Noise is not permitted from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the next day, except until 9 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays. These rules do not apply to devices used to maintain golf courses or public parks and to snow removal devices. So their use is allowed during the day when many people are at home. The 2019 ML&S staff report on the new bylaw noted that no significant changes are made because their survey of just 1000 City residents and others did not show a high percentage of support. But the impacts are major issues in many parts to the City. Their health and environmental issues and cannot be ignored. Alternatives are available including raking and increasingly, much quieter battery powered motors.

We are therefore very pleased to support the motion so that the City now can finally undertake a comprehensive study on the significant negative impacts of two-stroke engines and develop the needed new regulations, strategies for implementation and programs. Public consultation and public education must be part of the process.

We look forward to the belated and much needed updates to City regulations of two-stroke garden equipment to reduce harmful noise and air pollution.

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