

July 13, 2021

His Worship Mayor John Tory and members of City Council
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2



Submitted electronically

RE: MM35.15 Stop Excessive Construction Noise - Getting the Province to Back Off From Overriding Toronto's Noise Bylaw

Dear Mayor Tory and members of City Council,

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) understands that at the July 14 and July 15 City Council meeting, repealing the Provincially mandated extended hours of construction is on the agenda.

RESCON would like to take this opportunity to voice its strong objection to this motion and share the benefits that the extended hours have provided to our industry and construction workers.

RESCON represents over 200 residential builders of high, mid, and low-rise buildings in the province, with a focus on the GTA. Our members build Ontario's communities and homes. We are committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry through the following six core focuses: Training and Apprenticeship; Government Relations; Labour Relations; Health and Safety; Building Science and Innovation; and Building Code Reform and Technical Standards.

To build and deliver much needed housing in a timely fashion, RESCON fully supports the continued Extended Hours of Construction (ONTARIO REGULATION 130/20) until we reach a point where the health situation does not require pandemic measures on site or, in the alternative, no earlier than the regulation expiry of October 7, 2021. The industry has struggled under COVID-19, however associated safety measures, including extended hours of construction has allowed us to keep producing essential shelter. Aside from lost productivity, ongoing and worsening supply chain issues have slowed construction and dramatically increased costs. This exacerbates a pre-existing and ongoing housing supply problem. This and other factors have continued to increase shelter costs.

The extended hours of construction put in place in April 2020 remedied certain effects, enabling project timelines were met while permitting physical distancing and staggered scheduling of trades – helping us further mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on-site. Opposing extended hours of construction while also calling simultaneously calling for increased housing supply presents a logical disconnect. The extended hours of construction have fundamentally allowed us to try and preserve productivity throughout the pandemic as well as ensure the health and wellbeing of our workers from a deadly virus.

Further, with the City launching the 'We're Ready Toronto' campaign and other initiatives to encourage re-opening and a return to the City, gridlock is poised to return. Maintaining the extended hours of construction from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m will help prevent a return to gridlock.

To reiterate, we strongly object to this motion to repeal the extended hours of construction.

Sincerely,



Richard Lyall
President, RESCON



Copy to:

His Worship, John Tory, Mayor, City of Toronto

Deputy Mayor, Ana Bailão, Chair, Planning and Housing Committee

Daniela Magisano, Deputy Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Mayor

Tracey Cook, Deputy City Manager; Infrastructure & Development Services

Marilyn Toft, Secretariat, City Council