

Attachment C – Summary of e-mail feedback

Email feedback open from March 30, 2022 to April 20, 2022.

Approximately 900 e-mails received

Summary:

- Staff invited comments from the public via email on restrictions on noise from two-stroke leaf blowers and other small-engine equipment and strategies to reduce excessive vehicle noise in Toronto, including automated noise radar technologies.
- The opportunity to provide feedback was advertised on the City of Toronto's Noise webpage, as well as shared on social media, with resident/ratepayers associations, Business Improvement Areas, and other stakeholders.
- Respondents shared their experiences with motor vehicle noise in areas around the City and many noted the use of leaf blowers as a nuisance, with many also concerned about the environmental impacts.
- Other issues were raised including amplified sound at bars and nightclubs and questions about the enforcement of the Noise Bylaw. City staff will be pursuing broad public consultation during a review of the Noise Bylaw in 2023 and look forward to discussing these concerns in more detail.

Leaf blowers and small-engine equipment:

- The majority of respondents supported restrictions specific to two-stroke or gas-powered leaf blowers. Other small-engine equipment, like lawn mowers or chainsaws were not mentioned as frequently.
- In addition to concerns about noise, respondents expressed concerns about the impacts of dust and emissions during leaf blower use and supported the use of electric and/or battery-powered blowers.
- A common piece of feedback was that the ways in which equipment is being used is exacerbating levels of noise, dust, and emissions. Respondents noted that those using leaf blowers were using them for other activities (not leaf blowing) and that multiple blowers were being used at the same time.
- Some respondents noted that they should be able to continue using this equipment on their property in accordance with City bylaws and in a way that minimizes disturbance to neighbours.

Motor vehicle noise:

- Respondents noted that noise from standard traffic is reasonable, and recognized that excessive vehicle noise is the result of speeding, aggressive and dangerous driving behaviours, and vehicles with modified exhausts.

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- Specific areas of the City were mentioned by a number of respondents, including those living near Lakeshore, Gardiner, DVP, and in Yorkville. Many respondents cited frequent cases of street and stunt racing at night.
- The majority of respondents were supportive of increased enforcement, particularly of speeding vehicles, and called for stricter penalties for modified vehicles and vehicles causing unnecessary vehicle noise.
- Some respondents noted that the current Bylaw has a limit of 92 decibels for stationary motorcycles and called for a limit to be introduced for high-performance vehicles.
- Overall, respondents were supportive of existing automated speed enforcement systems and other traffic calming measures, including speed bumps and signage, and were supportive of the City assessing the feasibility of acoustic noise camera systems.