



John Tory
Mayor

May 20, 2022

Chair and Members
Economic and Community Development Committee
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members:

Re: EC30.4 – Report on Outstanding Noise Directives

Toronto is a fast-growing, vibrant city that is home to a diverse community of people. With that growth, we are seeing more and more noise as a result of construction, amplified sounds, and vehicle noise.

Excessive vehicle noise in particular has been an issue I have been hearing about from residents, which in most cases is a result of vehicles that have been deliberately modified to create such a noise. This is a major nuisance to residents in many neighbourhoods across Toronto.

I have been committed to working with both Toronto Police Services (TPS) and Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) to tackle this and other related concerns such as speeding and stunt driving. TPS and MLS have collaborated on many occasions to conduct enforcement blitzes, as these have proven to be one of the most effective tools in addressing excessive vehicle noise.

The staff report, which will be considered by this committee on May 30th, recommends that City Council request the Government of Ontario to increase the fines associated with modifying exhausts and unnecessary vehicle noise, and request that violations include demerit points, all of which fall under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. This is something I strongly support and believe will help us mitigate excessive noise caused by motor vehicles.

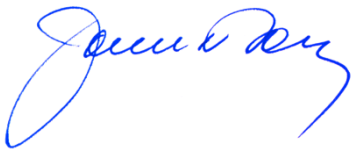
Staff are also recommending that MLS continue to do joint enforcement blitzes with TPS and that the City add vehicle noise information to Vision Zero materials. There are also recommendations for MLS to send educational communications to car repair facilities

licensed by the City to inform them about the modifications that are prohibited under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. These are all recommendations that I strongly support.

However, I think there is more that needs to be done. After consulting with relevant City staff, I am putting the below recommendations in front of the committee asking TPS to consider conducting even more joint blitzes with MLS as well as exploring the use of sound level meters to enable them to issue charges under the City's noise bylaw. Finally, I believe the City needs to establish a sound level limit for all stationary motor vehicles which will improve enforcement of our noise bylaw.

Recommendations

1. City Council request additional support from Toronto Police Services to conduct more joint blitzes with Municipal Licensing and Standards to address excessive vehicle noise and illegally modified vehicles.
2. City Council request Toronto Police Services to explore equipping and training Toronto Police Traffic Services on sound level meters to support enforcement of excessive motor vehicle noise.
3. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, as part of the 2023 Noise By-law Review report, to introduce a sound level limit for motor vehicles when their engines are idle in accordance with the Society of Automotive Engineers, and report on a plan for implementation of this new provision.



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto