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27 June 2022

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EC30.4 Report on Outstanding Noise Directives - July 6, 2022 Banning two-stroke gas engines such as leaf blowers and other landscape equipment

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization (LPRO) is an incorporated non-profit association, representing residents living in the area bounded by Lawrence Avenue West to Roselawn and Briar Hill Avenues, Yonge Street to Saguenay and Proudfoot Avenue.

We urge you to direct staff to recommend **banning** two-stroke gas engines such as leaf blowers and other landscape equipment due to the environmental and health risks they present. These have been banned in more than 200 US jurisdictions; several Canadian municipalities have banned or meaningfully restricted their use.

We urge you to reject the Municipal Licensing and Standards recommendation in their [Report on Outstanding Noise Directives](#), that says, *Staff do not recommend a ban on two-stroke small engine equipment from a noise perspective. Compared to other noise categories, such as amplified sound and construction, complaints from leaf blowers and other equipment remain low.*

The staff report based its conclusions on complaints to Toronto 311, but ignored the many hundreds of comments that were sent from the public in April, advocating a ban on two-stroke gas-powered garden equipment. The Report devoted much detail to the perspective of Landscape Ontario and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute in its reasons for not banning leaf blowers. It gave scant attention to residents' complaints.

It may be that many residents do not bother to report to Toronto 311 each time that they are subject to the noise from leaf-blowers, but they do suffer from the high-decibel noise and from the polluting exhaust. If you walked down a residential street and took a poll of residents, you would likely find an almost universal abhorrence of the noise level.

The Report's key recommendations do little to make Toronto quieter, healthier, or to strengthen Toronto's climate initiatives. Regulations, with concomitant enforcement, are needed to give residents some relief from the pollution and noise of mechanized gardening, construction, and traffic.

Thank you,

Maureen Kapral
President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization

c Councillor Michael Thompson
Councillor Shelley Carroll
Councillor Mark Grimes
Councillor Cynthia Lai
Councillor Mike Colle
Mayor John Tory

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