

NoMoreNoise *Toronto!*

2024 Budget Deputation

January 22, 2024

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- Ingrid Buday, Founder
- I live in Ward 4
- Have a background in process design, data & IT
- Founded this group over 1.5 years ago after I learned that I am not the only one who is experiencing significant health issues due to noise
- I've created a data centered approach around understanding the noise we live with by
 - measuring sound from people's homes with meters for over 2 years
 - Collecting crowdsourced "Not 311" Noise Reports to fill the gaps that exist in the 311 reporting process



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Urban Noise is the #2 Urban Environmental Health Hazard

- In 2017 Toronto Public Health published “How Loud is Too Loud”
 - Almost 93% of residents are exposed to noise over the WHO guideline of 45 dBA
 - 54% exposed to noise above 55dBA where health impacts are known to occur.
 - Some of these are increases in:
 - Heart disease
 - Heart failure
 - Diabetes
 - High blood pressure
 - Annoyance and sleep disturbance cause these and many other health issues such as depression, anxiety, and impair learning in children and loss of concentration and focus for adults.
- According to [Professor Tor Oiamo](#):
 - 230 premature mortalities ANNUALLY due to ischemic heart disease
 - 20,000 quality years of life are lost ANNUALLY due to noise disturbance
- This problem has gotten worse in the last 4 years, it will likely replace Air Pollution as the #1 Urban Environmental Health Hazard



Click image for report

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We want to be a partner with the City

Today I want to recommend two solutions through process improvements and technology while reducing noise in Toronto:

1. Long-term moving vehicle noise enforcement – no impact on Police Budget
2. Area sound level monitoring – MLS Staffing and efficiencies

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Invest in Noise Cameras

Automate moving vehicle noise enforcement without increasing the Police Budget

- NYC had a pilot for 2 years while they sorted out the legislation
 - Have purchased 25 more cameras and made program permanent
 - The tech works, tickets hold up in court & they make their money back
 - Costs ranges from \$6,000 to > \$30,000 depending on manufacturer
 - Leasing and purchase options
- Click the image to the right to listen to the webinar from the manufacturer of those noise cameras.

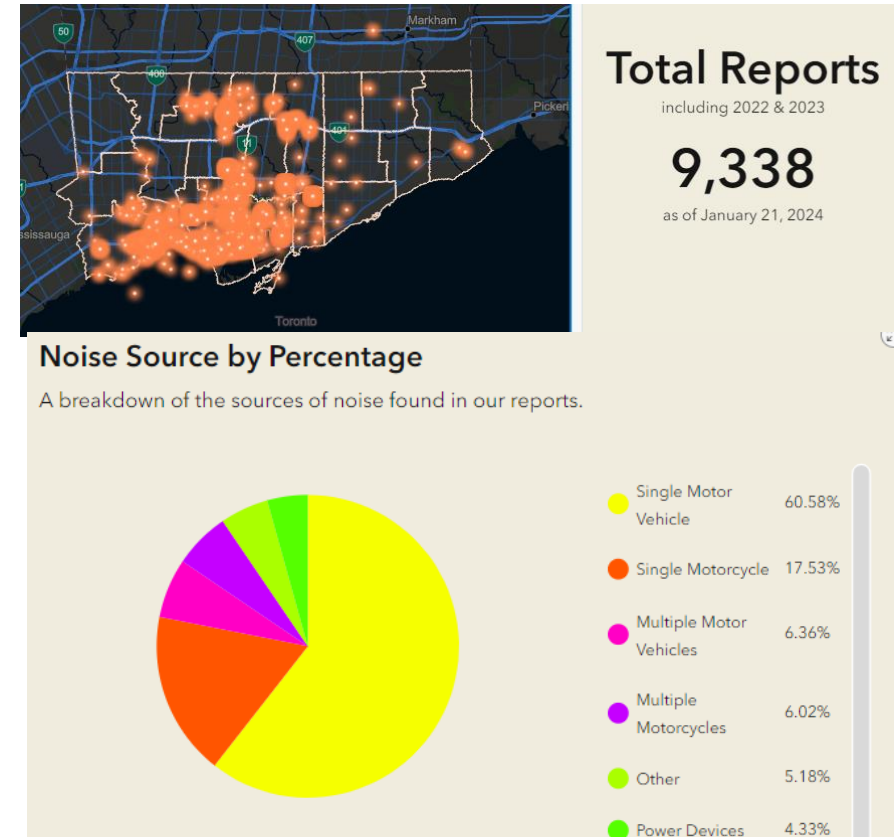
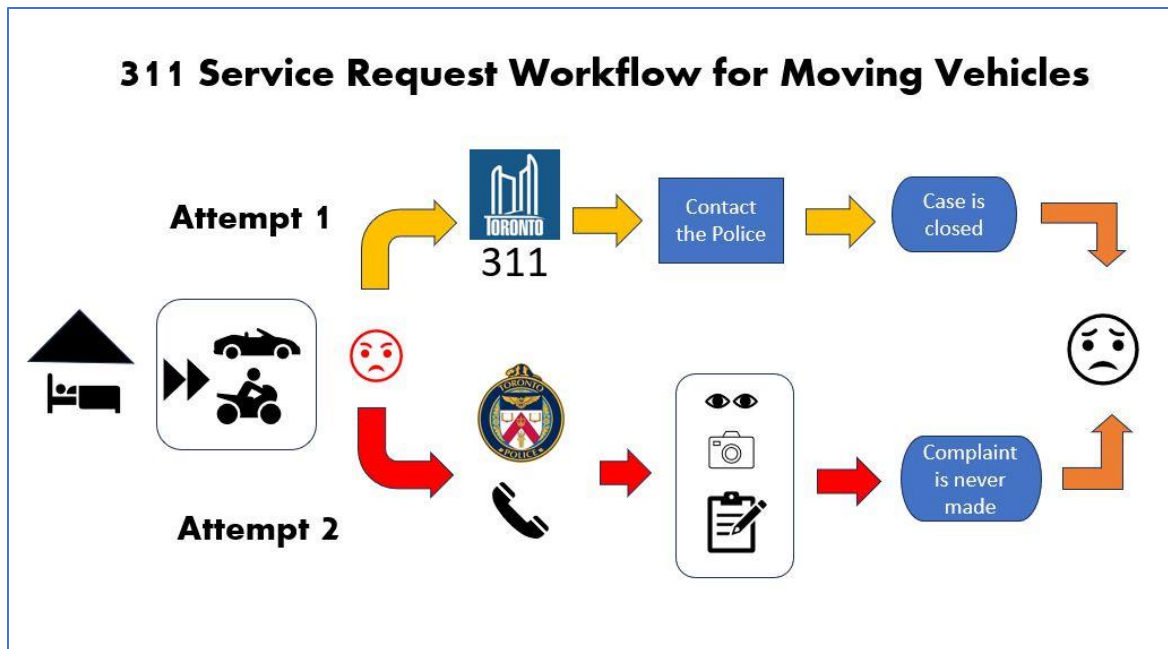


Click picture to view webinar

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“Not 311” Noise Report Data

- Almost all the reports are for moving vehicles
- 50% of those are reporting loud mufflers
- Currently the City does not enforce moving vehicle noise reports.



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Peak Noise Event Buffer Analysis

From my weeklong measurements I have been able to estimate peak noise event exposures.

In 2021:

- Over 665,00 people lived within 750 meters of a highway – they have over 42 noise spikes in 24 hours
- Over 1.2 million people live within 100 meters of an arterial roads – they have 142 noise spikes in 24 hours
- Over 66% of Toronto residents are constantly assaulted by noise at all hours of the day

If you think electric vehicles will solve this problem, click here:
[Borla Makes an “Exhaust” Sound System for Electric Cars](#)



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Sound Level Monitoring

Noise occurs 24 hours a day – while more bylaw officers would help, we need process improvements to reduce tension and create efficiencies

- Area sound level (not audio) monitoring is possible
 - Sensor plugs into top of streetlights
 - The city already has licenses for this software
 - Cost is equipment and installation (<\$1,000 to >\$10,000)



Video on the Living Lab: Eindhoven, NL

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Sound Level Monitoring

Benefits:

- Real time measurements displayed on bylaw officer's screens for efficient and timely response
- Establishes a baseline measurement for sound levels in the city
- No need to enter people's homes who have reported amplified sound from establishments after 11pm
- Helps to ensure success of the Night Economy in existing and new areas for operators and residents alike.

Sound needs to be managed at the street, in the public space.

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Reducing Noise supports:

- **Public Health**
 - Health impacts are well understood. 93% of Toronto residents have sound exposures over the WHO recommended level of 45 dBA**
- **TransformTO:**
 - Modified mufflers increase GHG emissions
 - Force use of closing windows and using air conditioning (if lucky enough to have that)
- **SafeTO**
 - Noise impacts health and reduces well-being
- **CafeTO**
 - Makes our streets more pleasant places to linger and support local businesses
- **Vision Zero**
 - Drivers who have illegal modifications are also, most often engaging in activities that are known to cause Killed and Serious Injury (KSI) Collisions*
- **Night Economy**
 - Ensures that residents have a good sleep, night workers can sleep during the day
- **Statement of Commitment to Accessibility**
 - Noise creates an additional barriers for those living with vision loss or have brain injuries
- **Streetscape Improvement Program**
 - create safe and attractive retail areas
- **Strong Neighbourhoods**

Sources:

- TPS report to TPSB January 16, 2023

** Toronto Public Health Report: How Loud is Too Loud, 2017

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Creating a Better Toronto by Reducing Noise

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