

NoMoreNoise *Toronto!*

EC9.5 Implementation Review of the Noise By-law

January 11, 2024

No More Noise Toronto



- Ingrid Buday, Founder
- I've been measuring sound for over 2 years with meters from homes to create a data centered approach around understanding and managing noise
- Founded this group 1.5 years ago after i learned I am not the only one who is experiencing significant health issues from noise

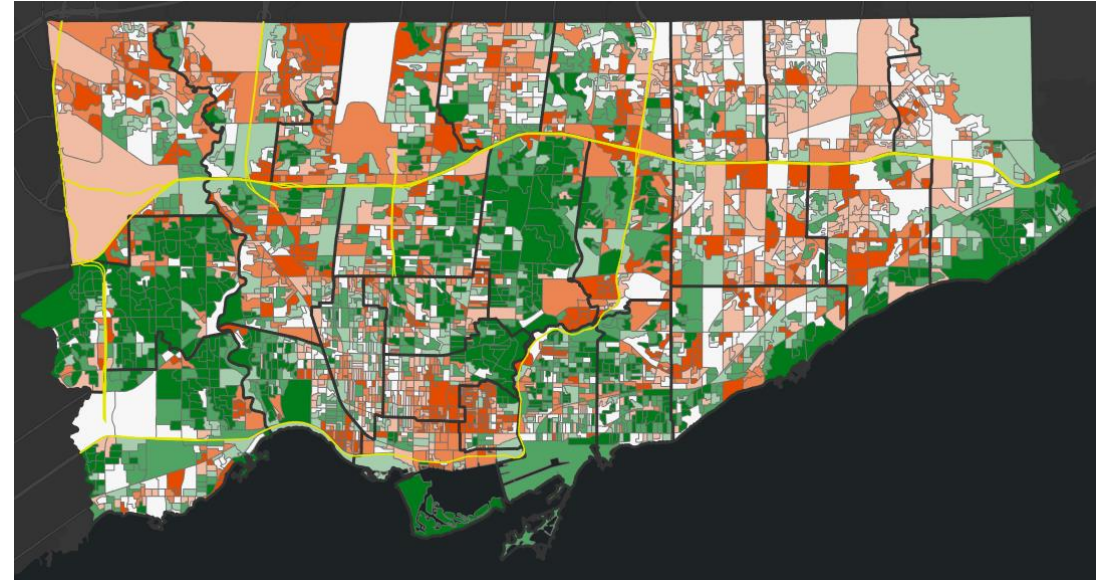
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Documentation Provided

[Report from No More Noise Toronto](#)

In this report is:

- Our findings from the “Not 311” Noise Report in comparison to 311 data.
- Our analysis of the moving vehicle reporting process
- Different analysis on the impacts of noise on Toronto residents
- Strategies for noise mitigation and recommendations



Preamble must change

Toronto:

In a city as large and vibrant as Toronto, **certain levels of noise are reasonable** and reflect life in a densely populated city.

New York City:

...excessive and unreasonable and prohibited noises within the city affects and is a **menace to public health**, comfort, convenience, safety, welfare and the prosperity of the people of the city.”

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Reporting Process

The current Noise Bylaw reporting and enforcement process is broken

- When reporting, 311 operators have asked if they have considered moving.
- Residents are asked if they are ready to go to court for an amplified sound complaint.
- Moving vehicles are a common complaint that cannot be addressed by the city yet we are told to do so.
- Do not allow reporting of all complaints at all times.



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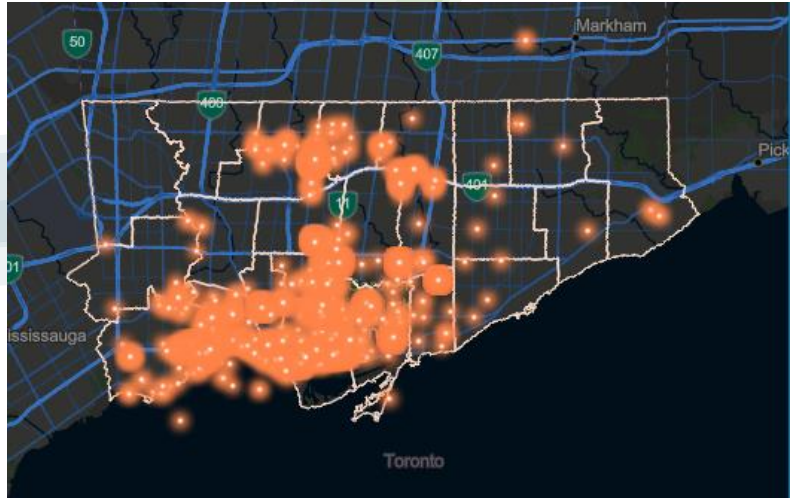
Reporting Process for Moving Vehicles

311 Service Request Workflow for Moving Vehicles

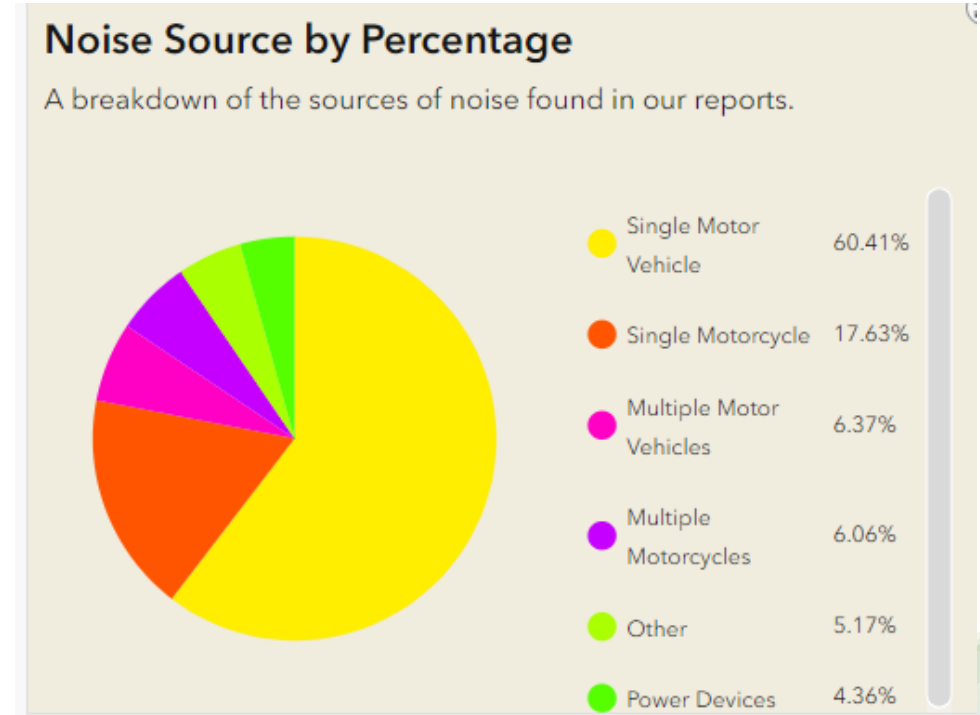


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“Not 311” Noise Report

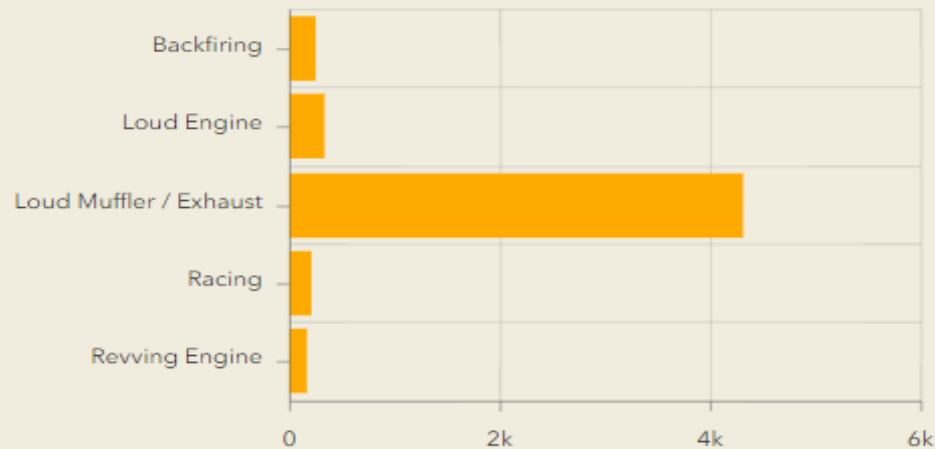


Total Reports
including 2022 & 2023
9,125
as of January 8, 2024



What was the driver doing?

Motor vehicles are the dominant noise concern. Here we explore what drivers are doing with their vehicles.



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Buffer analysis

This is an image of a buffer analysis: in 2021 over 655,000 people live within 750 meters of a highway and 1.2 million live within 100 meters of an arterial roads.

Over 66% of Toronto's population is suffering from constant noise spikes from vehicles, sirens, and horns.



“A noise complaint is not a ‘Service Request’.
It is a cry for help.”

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Noise Cameras

Used in many locations and more coming

- Santa Fe, Miami, New York, Chicago
- Paris
- Mallorca
- Isreal
- New South Wales – Australia
- Paris

Technology

- 8 or 9 been used in New York City for 3 years
- Just approved a purchase of 25 more – 5 in each borough

Events:

- Lunch & Learn Thursday January 18th

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Prevention & Monitoring

Prevention:

- Inspections at car shops to ensure they do not perform exhaust modifications
- Patrols around problem areas and construction sites when work would be outside of allowable times
- Bring back vehicle inspections.

Monitoring:

- Sound level monitors on streetlights with live feedback to bylaw officers' screens
- Make all parts of the noise control plans for the Night Economy mandatory
- Improve the reporting process and allow all noise complaints all the time,

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Enforcement

Bylaws are worth nothing without proper, timely and efficient enforcement.

- Develop ways to measure sound from the outside of people's residences, never inside.
- Have appropriate and meaningful consequences if businesses break laws, including removal of their license
- TPS can ticket under HTA 75 (1) with a visual inspection - how to make them do it?
- Test all vehicles under revs and at idle and reduce the decibels from the current proposal
- Create efficiencies:
 - Route moving vehicle complaints to TPS or connect TPS with 311 as it currently is for Fire Services
 - Perform visual inspections in conjunction with a RIDE program
 - Install noise cameras – the technology has been tested and holds up in court

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Let's work together for a better Toronto

I recommend establishing a working group (again) to move forward together solutions made in silos won't work.

Noise is a

- A public health issue
- An equity issue
- A quality of life issue

A noise complaint is not a Service Request, it is a cry for help

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Creating a Better Toronto by Reducing Noise

www.nomorenoisetoronto.com

