

## **289 Communications were received with text similar to the following:**

The City of Toronto is getting noisier and impacting Torontonians' health. Noise is defined as unwanted and harmful sound. According to Professor Tor Oiamo, from Toronto Metropolitan University, from 2016 data, there were over 230 premature deaths per year due to ischemic heart disease and over 20,000 quality years of life lost on an annual basis due to annoyance and sleep disturbance. The noise levels have increased since then and so have the health impacts.

Additionally, the quality of life has been reduced in the past few years due to significant increases in noise for amplified music and construction, vanity noise from modified vehicles, and waste collection noise at night. People are not able to rest, relax and recover in their own homes.

New technologies are becoming available that create efficiencies, improve enforcement and do not invade privacy. These and other recommendations below, some included in the report and some that should be added, will reduce the frustration, annoyance and tension that residents are feeling today.

The City must treat noise as public the health hazard that it is.

We request that Councillors act to:

- Include in the Noise Bylaw a statement acknowledging that noise is a public health issue
- Overhaul the 311 noise reporting process, including identifying better ways to report moving vehicle noise
- Introduce nighttime limits of 45 dB(A) outdoors and 35 dB(A) indoors for all noise sources, reflecting studies establishing serious negative health impacts due to disrupted sleep
- Establish appropriate measurement policies for different noise sources (e.g., measuring at property line of noise source in case of Amplified Sound; measuring at a point of reception such as the plane of an open window in case of Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources)
- Test vehicles and motorcycles at idle and at 2000 RPMS, and reduce the decibel limits from 92 dB(A) to 81 dB(A) at idle, and from 96 to 85 (or lower) dB(A) at 2000 RPMS
- Implement automation of noise enforcement and data gathering via, e.g., noise cameras and sound level meters (as is done in London and New York City)
- Implement technology to remotely monitor sound levels from establishments and party boats in the harbor and on the lake
- Create one or more committees for the public, city, police, and other stakeholders to resolve noise issues.

We urge the City Council to be bold, and be leaders in creating a better sounding Toronto, for the benefit of every person and every living thing on our planet. A clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

Sincerely,