



February 4, 2024

Sylwia Przewdziki, City Clerk
City Hall 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: EC.9.5 Implementation of the Noise Bylaw Review

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

The Toronto Noise Coalition was established in 2016 to provide a voice for residents in the development of the 2019 Noise Bylaw and has continued to monitor the Bylaw and its impacts on residents. We took part in the consultations last fall and submitted our comments to the January 11 ECDC meeting. Our membership is close to 300 people across the City.

Excessive noise is a public health issue. Protecting public health must be a multifaceted and ongoing endeavour that includes not only the Noise Bylaw and its enforcement and exemptions (MLS), but involve the Medical Officer of Health, cross-divisional efforts, the noisemakers and the public.

As the City grows and becomes more dense, noise issues will continue to change. Major issues now include overnight private garbage collection for residential towers and night time racing with souped-up cars and motorcycles. How effective will regulations be to protect neighbours from excessive noise from Night Economy entertainment uses, now being permitted across the City?

At its January 11 meeting, the Economic and Community Development Committee adopted the MLS report, making a number of additional recommendations. The Toronto Noise Coalition is proposing a number of additional recommendations to better address current and future needs to help ensure a comprehensive noise protection plan. They are listed below under the different aspects to be considered.

A. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NOISE BY LAW REGULATIONS

1. Ensure that a noise maker is made responsible for impacting others with excessive noise, where possible measuring noise not at point of reception, but at source or at the property line in the case of amplified sound. Measuring at the point of reception such as at an open window is necessary in the case of Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources.
2. Reduce the currently permitted noise levels for motorcycle exhausts from 92/96 dB(A) to 81/85 dB9(A) and reduce indoor and outdoor noise levels to 45dB outdoors and 35dB indoors.

3. Require that Noise Bylaw measures to eliminate the excessive noise and pollution from gas powered leaf blowers, not just public education, will be recommended in the requested report.
4. Add new regulations to reduce excessive noise from party boats in the Harbour and on the Lake.
5. Eliminate the exemption to the Noise Bylaw for night garbage collection.

B. FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

1. Add more inspectors in this year's budget
2. Continue to improve the 311 services to provide more timely and relevant information.
3. Add all night time enforcement services. Excessive noise does not stop at 2am.
4. Further increase fines especially for excessive amplified sound and construction noise and for repeat offenders.
5. Ensure neighbours are provided with relevant information re nearby sites subject to exemptions.

C. MAKING USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

1. Request the Province for permission to use the much quieter broadband back up beepers for construction sites and garbage trucks, etc.
2. Request the Province for permission to make use of the new noise cameras, now in use by New York City, as an effective way to measure vehicular noise such as noise from modified mufflers and from party boats, street noise, etc.
3. Investigate ways to reduce unnecessarily high noise levels of sirens.

D. MAKING MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF OTHER CITY RESOURCES TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE NOISE

1. Continue to explore ways that the other City Divisions and other organizations can make our City quieter including:
 - Public Health to provide regular updates on noise levels in the City and on priorities for reducing harmful impacts of noise.
 - City Planning to help ensure new developments build in provisions for limiting excessive noise, such as provision of enclosed garbage collection rooms in high rise residential developments.
 - Buildings to help make quieter multi unit buildings with better sound insulation
 - Police to continue to assist with enforcement of excessive vehicle noise.
2. Make effective use of other tools such as the new Night Economy Noise Control Plans, now approved for the new potentially noisy night economy uses, in coordination with Noise Bylaw regulations.

E. CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1. Ensure members of the public are ongoing partners in making our City quieter by:
 - Continue to use effective public consultation processes such as undertaken last fall.
 - Continue to improve the provision of noise related information to the public.
 - Provide advice for residents as to how to manage issues from noisy neighbours.
 - Provide for ongoing consultation process to monitor progress and address new issues that will arise which involves residents, businesses and noise makers.
 - Ensure exemption permits are posted on site to inform neighbours.

2. Encourage the use of construction management plans developed with neighbours to ensure consideration of local conditions and to promote communications during construction.

Cathie Macdonald
For Toronto Noise Coalition

CC Carlton Grant, Director, Mitchell Thibault, Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, Dr. Eillen de Villa (Medical Officer of Health), Kerri Voumvakis (Acting Chief Planner/Executive Director City Planning Division, Kamal Gogna (Acting Chief Building Official/Executive Director City Buildings Division)