



Feb 1, 2024

Dear Members of Council:

My name is Ric Amis, and I write to offer comments to Council on the proposed changes to the Noise By-law in item 2024.EC9.5, Implementation Review of the Noise By-law. I write, as Chair, on behalf of the West Side Community Council, comprised of thirteen West End Community Associations, with a large catchment area ranging from the Grange to Roncesvalles Avenue, and from Lake Ontario to Bloor Street. We have three comments and associated requests.

1. The City heard from thousands of residents that noise from nighttime Private Waste Collection is a huge source of disrupted sleep, known to produce serious negative health impacts. **Failure to strike down the nighttime Private Waste exemption signals to residents that the convenience of a few private businesses matters more than the health and safety of thousands of residents.**

We request that the Committee amend the proposals to immediately strike down the exemption on nighttime Private Waste Collection.

2. The proposed decreases in decibel limits for Amplified Sound, Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources are welcome, but don't go far enough. No changes are made to outdoor daytime limits, preventing many from sitting outside or opening windows. And proposed indoor night-time limits of 42 dB(A) for Amplified Sound, and 40 dB(A) for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources, are not low enough to prevent serious negative health impacts of sleep disturbance. **WHO guidelines specify that "the mean sound level prevailing in bedrooms should not exceed 30 dB(A)".**

We request that the Committee amend the proposals to further reduce outdoor and indoor decibel limits for these noise sources.

3. The proposed bylaw clauses for Residential Air Conditioners/Stationary Sources state that the indoor decibel limits apply only "if a By-law Enforcement Officer determines it is not reasonable to measure from a point of reception in an outdoor living area". **Due to this restriction, the clauses allow for the following problematic cases:**

Case 1: It's during the night. A Residential Air Conditioner/Stationary Source is registering at 50 dB(A) in Fatema's bedroom and 45 dB(A) on Fatema's backyard deck (the noise source is closer to her bedroom than her deck). **The indoor levels are 10 dB(A) above the limits in the proposed bylaw. But there's nothing that Fatema can do about it---indeed, the indoor limits in the bylaw don't even apply---**since it is

'reasonable' (possible, on the natural reading) to take the measurement on Fatema's back deck and the outdoor measurement doesn't violate the outdoor decibel limits.

Case 2: It's during the day. A Residential Air Conditioner/Stationary Source is registering at 50 dB(A) in my living room and 50 dB(A) on my backyard deck. **The indoor decibel levels are 5 dB(A) above the stated limits in the proposed Bylaw. But there's nothing I can do about it---indeed, the indoor limits don't even apply---**since it is 'reasonable' to take the measurement on my backyard deck and the outdoor measurement doesn't violate the outdoor decibel limits.

We request that the Committee close these problematic loopholes by amending the proposed clauses for Residential Air Conditioners /Stationary Sources to simply state what the indoor decibel limits are, so that these limits can apply and be enforced.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views. The members of the West Side Community Council trust and hope that the Committee appreciates the need to adjust the existing and proposed bylaws for Waste Collection, Amplified Sound, Residential Air Conditioners, and Stationary Sources, for the sake of the health and well-being of Toronto residents.

Sincerely,



Ric Amis

Spokesperson/Chair, West Side Community Council

Chair, Parkdale Residents Association

Members of the WSCC include: the Grange Community Association, the Harbord Village Residents' Association, the Garment District Neighbourhood Association, the Trinity Bellwoods Community Association, the Ossington Community Association, the Lakeview Avenue Neighbourhood Association, the Liberty Village Residents' Association, Niagara Neighbourhood NOW, Beaconsfield Village Residents' Association, Active 18, the Parkdale Residents Association, Roncesvalles-Macdonell Residents Association, and the Bloordale Community Improvement Association.