

Station A, Box 144
Toronto, M5W 1A2
Jan. 9, 2024

For: Mayor Olivia Chow, Toronto City Council
Re: Toronto's Noise Policy Review has a Pro-Noise Bias

After 5 years of study and public consultation, city staff are recommending changes to Toronto's Noise Bylaws. Unfortunately, the staff recommendations look more like cosmetic window dressing than real change, because they do not adequately address the problem of How to Measure Noise Accurately.

Current noise bylaws use an outdated method of noise measurement called DBA Decibels, which only measure part of the noise. DBA Decibels are the preferred noise measurement of noise making industries because DBA Decibels only measure treble noise, and do not measure bass noise.

By depending on DBA Decibels as the foundation of the city's noise policy, the city is aligning itself with noise making industries, and telling people who complain about noise that their complaints will be ignored.

The solution for the DBA pro-noise bias is to use a more accurate system of noise measurement - DBZ Decibels, which measure the full noise spectrum.

If the city continues using DBA Decibels for noise measurement, instead of DBZ Decibels, noise-making industries will continue dominating the city's noise policies, and people will continue complaining that they are not being heard. This pro-industry bias in the noise policy can easily be changed, by simply adding DBZ Decibels as a second method of noise measurement.

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Comparing DBA, DBC & DBZ Decibels

