

Summerhill Residents Association

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VIA EMAIL: ecdc@toronto.ca

To the Toronto City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 11, 2024 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2024.EC9.5, Implementation Review of the Noise By-law

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

My comments:

As a resident of Toronto, I would like the Economic and Community Development Committee to know that I support strong measures to reduce noise in Toronto. The city has not done enough in this bylaw review to reduce noise – it must be viewed Noise as a public health issue.

Amplified sound impacts me personally. From portable speakers that people bring to parks to loud, booming bass that rattles windows, amplified sound is on the increase. This impacts people at night while trying to sleep and enjoy their homes. The current at “point of reception” reporting and enforcement process is flawed and intrusive, requiring bylaw officers to come into the home or residents at night.

I want the Economic and Community Development Committee to recommend:

- Measure sound levels at from the property line of the sound source and not from the point of reception
- Improve the reporting and enforcement process for a more timely response.
- Allow residents to provide evidence of disturbance.
- Require all components of a Noise Control plan for every establishment.
- Implement a sound level monitoring pilot so bylaw officers can remotely monitor sound levels and respond.

For the noise exemption process:

- Consider the proximity of residential communities to potentially noisy exemption applicants.
- Better clarify existing regulations for timely submission of the request for an exemption permits and community notification.
- Advise residents in advance of an event so they have enough time to make plans to leave the area if they need to

- Provide a feedback loop in the exemption process so that the process and implementation improve for all parties.

Environmental Noise was declared a health issue as far back as the 1970s in the US and it has only gotten worse since then. We would like Toronto to be a vibrant city, but not at the expense of the health of residents. According to the Toronto Public Health study in 2017, almost 93% of Toronto residents are exposed to nighttime noise levels above the World Health Organization's recommended 45 decibels. Additionally, many people are suffering from many different preventable noise sources throughout the day.

For too long we have prioritized the profit and expediency of commercial and government interests, with little to no concern for residents. The health impacts of noise are well studied and understood and will only burden our health care system and social programs for decades to come.

Toronto's soundscape will not improve unless you actively pursue noise reduction through laws that protect our health, and plan for adequate enforcement of those laws. This is the time for Toronto to be leaders and join the great cities of the world that are making their public spaces better for people which results in economic and community development.

Sincerely yours,

Summerhill Residents Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah J. Briggs', written in a cursive style.

Deborah J. Briggs
President