



January 10, 2024  
Toronto City Hall  
Economic and Community Development Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

RE: EC9.5 – Implementation Review of the Noise Bylaw

Chair Bravo, Economic and Community Development Committee Members,

Walk Toronto requests strong measures be taken to reduce noise in Toronto. We believe the city could do much more than is outlined in this review to reduce noise. The unreasonable and persistent noise experienced across the city makes Toronto less safe for walking while generally lowering quality of life for pedestrians.

There is so much background noise from vehicles on the road, construction at almost every corner, and what seems to be increasingly piercing siren noise that people will choose to not walk. High levels of noise make it impossible to speak comfortably with a companion while walking and can become a safety issue when it is impossible to alert fellow pedestrians of potential hazards.

We believe that cities can be vibrant only if pedestrianism is encouraged. We need feet on the street and we need to understand that noise does not have to be a consistent side-effect of urban life.

Walk Toronto supports the well-documented and scrupulously researched work of *No More Noise Toronto* and supports their call for the following:

- Add measurement of noise in dBC weighting to cover multiple noise sources including vibration, which was deleted in the 2019 Noise Bylaw
- Reduce the sound level of sirens. Investigate and implement different types of sirens such as the Howler or Rumbler as soon as possible.
- Add a decibel level to restrict back up beeper noise levels to that of broad band reversing alarms that restrict the noise levels to the immediate area of emission where a warning is needed.

The Toronto soundscape must and can improve if our public spaces are to become better places for all citizens.

Sincerely,  
Lee Scott, Member Steering Committee, Walk Toronto  
[info@walktoronto.ca](mailto:info@walktoronto.ca)  
cc. Cllrs Bravo, Carroll, Fletcher, Malik, Moise, Robinson