



February 18, 2024

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

Attention: Nancy Martins

Re: EC10.3 Follow Up on 2024.EC9.5: Implementation Review of the Noise By-law - Stationary Decibel Levels for Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles

Dear Councillor Alejandro Bravo, Chair, and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee

The Toronto Noise Coalition, which was established to provide a residents voice in the development of the 2019 Noise Bylaw, strongly supports improvements to our regulations to reduce excessive noise that damages our health, well-being and quality of life. Excessive motor vehicle noise was identified in the fall consultations as one of most Toronto's significant newer concerns. The Toronto Public Health Noise Action Plan states that "road traffic is a major source of environmental noise in the City".

Many submissions to the January ECDC meeting and to City Council re the Noise Bylaw Review requested lower noise level limits, including for the testing of vehicles, such as to reduce recommended permitted levels from "(a) 92 dB(A) at idle; or (b) 96 dB(A) at any engine speed greater than idle to 81 dBA at idle and 85 at 2,000 RPMS."

We therefore were looking forward to the information requested in Councillor Fletcher's motion at your Committee's last meeting to examine the options for reduced decibel levels for motorcycles and motor vehicles. Instead, the EC10.3 MLS report reiterates the same decibel limits as in the Noise Bylaw Review report with no rationale provided for not using other standards, such as the Canadian Federal Regulations, that require accelerating vehicles tested at 80 dBA. Or that Toronto Police Service motorcycles usually test at in at 81 at idle and 85 to 88 dBA under normal testing procedure. Why does MLS not recommend these reduced noise levels?

We urge the City to take a leadership role to make our growing city quieter. We therefore recommend that:

- Staff report EC10.3 be received and
- MLS be requested to report back on the effectiveness of options for reducing permitted Stationary Decibel Levels for Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles to below 92 decibels at idle and 96 decibels underway.

Cathie Macdonald for the Toronto Noise Coalition