

Sent via e-mail to: ecdc@toronto.ca

October 21, 2024

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

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee Members:

RE: EC16.4 - Update on Outstanding Directives Related to the Noise By-law

Waste to Resource Ontario (W2RO) is a voluntary member-based association with over 220 organizations across the province including private sector companies, public sector municipalities, and organizations and individuals involved in the waste management and recycling sectors in Ontario. Together, they manage over 85% of the province's waste and 90% of the province's recycling. W2RO members have diverse operations in areas such as waste and recycling collection, landfills, transfer stations, material recycling facilities, organics processing and composting, and other regulated recycling programs including electronics, tires, batteries, household hazardous waste and more from both a recycling and disposal perspective.

There are significant benefits for the waste collection industry to operate at night. Nighttime collection not only significantly lowers the costs of waste collection services for small businesses, retailers, property managers, and condo owners, but there are also significant safety benefits for the public, both pedestrians and cyclists.

In keeping with the principles of Vision Zero, any proactive public policy initiatives that can be taken to prevent at least one incident or fatality is something that is paramount for our industry. This is why we continue to support the overnight noise exemption for waste collection.

Additionally, this exemption has also helped reduce congestion and gridlock on municipal streets as anywhere from 25-35% of non-residential waste collection is currently being done during the nighttime.

As part of the City's review of its implementation of Chapter 591, Noise - MLS staff reached out to us last Fall to solicit feedback from private waste collection operators through both an online survey and through a meeting of an ad hoc group of public and private waste collectors last December to obtain our feedback to their ongoing consultations. Given Council's direction to staff earlier this year to develop a process to monitor noise issues from waste collection operations, W2RO staff followed up with City staff to proactively engage to keep the conversations active and to work together to solve any complaints City staff are receiving.

Over the course of the summer months, we helped facilitate several ad-hoc meetings with private and public waste collectors, and equipment suppliers to answer any questions MLS staff had regarding operations, proactive solutions and best practices. From the staff report being presented to the Committee, there are several recommendations that have been made to resolve issues and complaints of excessive nighttime noise.

Initial consultations did not include conversations about specific complaints or issues; however, staff were able to pilot the new recommendations with a recent resident complaint. W2RO have since been told that the complaint was resolved in an expedient manner, which we believe gives merit to the process staff have proposed.

Public and private waste collectors take resident complaints very seriously and we believe this new process will aid the City in working with all stakeholders (residents, property owners/managers and waste collectors) to resolve these issues. Our members are committed to making this new process successful.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the staff at MLS for their willingness to engage and collaborate with us on potential solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADS', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ashley De Souza
Chief Executive Officer
Waste to Resource Ontario (W2RO)