

Board of Health

142 communications with similar text were received between Tuesday July 2, 2024 at 5:22 p.m. to Monday July 8, 2024 at 10:36 a.m.

To: Board of Health <boh@toronto.ca>

RE: Let's reduce noise pollution in our communities!

RE: Reduce noise to protect our health!

RE: Reducing noise pollution benefits everyone.

Dear City Division Board of Health,

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 8, 2024 Board of Health meeting on item 2024.HL14.1, Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028

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.

Comments:

I am asking for the Board of Health to direct the Medical Officer of Health to address indoor and outdoor noise health issues as part of Toronto Public Health's Strategic Plan. Noise pollution is on the rise and there are no biological defenses for sound. This reduces the health of people and ecosystems and increases the impacts of climate change – it impacts everyone and everything

Noise is a serious public health issue.

- As Toronto Public Health (TPH) mentioned in their own 2017 report ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE STUDY IN THE CITY OF TORONTO¹, almost 93% of Toronto residents must try to sleep in an environment above the WHO guideline of 45 dBA. Since that report was produced sound levels have increased. Unmitigated, unnecessary noise overburdens healthcare and necessitates medical treatments that would not be needed if noise was regulated properly.
- NMNT created a short video² using data and spatial analysis to show how that close to 2 million people living close to Toronto's highways and arterial roads are subjected to an enormous number of harmful peak noise events on a daily basis.
- Indoor noise due to poor construction and maintenance allows noise from other areas and from outside to penetrate our homes, providing no place for rest and recovery.

Noise is also a climate issue.

- Buildings are the # 1 producer of GHG's in the city. If I can't to open my windows to cool

myself due to the noise outside, this is a health hazard. And when I turn on air conditioning, I increase our emissions of GHGs even more.

- Transportation is the #2 producer of GHGs. It is also the most ubiquitous source of noise. Of course, all this noise forces us to go inside, and (if we are lucky enough) to turn on our AC (see above!).
- To make matters worse, too many Torontonians modify the exhaust systems of their vehicles (which is illegal). This reduces or eliminates the emissions controls intended to reduce climate change and creates a lot of unnecessary noise.

Noise is also a serious equity issue

- As the TPH report noted, those in the lowest income quartile are 11 times more likely to live in loud places.
- Those who are blind, have disabilities and cognitive impairments are also physically and mentally more impacted.

As Toronto Public Health is creating their Strategic Plan for the next 4 years, you have a new opportunity to dust off the 2019 Noise Action Plan³. From this document, workplans to reduce noise can be developed and implemented with results evaluated for effectiveness. We also encourage you to work with Community groups, such as No More Noise Toronto, to learn about the impacts and find solutions.

We are asking you to give indoor and outdoor noise pollution the attention that it deserves.

Sources:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE STUDY IN THE CITY OF TORONTO:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/8f4d-tph-Environmental-Noise-Study-2017.pdf>

2. Highway and Arterial Road Buffer Analysis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlOcwSImKt4>

3. 2019 TPH Noise Action Plan:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-138868.pdf>

From:

Christina M.	Alan Barthel	Brian Holland
Dr. Arthur Zalev		Buffy MacGregor
Janet Griffiths-Maxymiw	Angus MacCaull	Cameron Macpherson
Lancelyn Rayman-Watters	Annick Torfs	Cameron Mancell
Marcia Zalev	April Poppe	Carol Bacchus
Marie-Josée Vinet	Arthur Klimowicz	Catarina vM
"Rosie O'Brien"	Barbara Cook	Catherine McCarthy
Abigail Johnson	Bette Ross	Catherine Mitchell
Adrianna Knight	Botond Ballo	Catherine Oliver

Cathy Sorichetti	Jane W	Martha Tamblyn
charles merivale	Janna Millious	Mary Ambrose
Christopher Wilson	Jaselyn Jarvis	MaryAnn Jansen
Conrad Genee	Jed Braithwaite	Maureen McStay
Coryn Kempster	Jennifer Ferguson	Max Hniebergall
Dale Halliday	Jim Fischer	Michael Dewson
Daniel Snider	John Day	Micheal Taylor
Davi Bralha	John Myers	Nadim Haddad
David Edwards	John Watt	Natasha Meissner
Deanna Scriver	Joseph Vacheresse	Neil Betteridge
Denise Brabant	Judi Walsh	Norah Jardine
Dennis Ing	Judy Lupchansky	Pamela Mitchell
Don Young	Julia Robinson	Paul Kenyon
Donna Spreitzer	K Azure	Paul Lebel
Dory Smith	Kathy Parsons	Paul Marshman
Ekaterina Habbous	Kelly Crosthwaite	Paul Silveira
Eugene Spanier	Ken Burford	Paul Wilk
Filomena Venditti	Kenneth Brown	Peggy Lampotang
From: (Name)	Kenneth Saul	Phyllis Schwager
Gabe Hayos	Laurence Olivo	Pietro Grillo
Gabe Sawhney	Ling Chiu	Ravi Upadhyay
Gail Viggiani	Lisa Cummings	Ria Iglesias
George Ayoub	Lynne Gaspini	Rina Greer
Grant Patton	Mandy Sala	Robert Van Rhijn
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James McKay	Mark Markovic	Ron Parkinson
	Marsha Rothstein	Ruth Watkins

S Knap

Sally Gustin

Sandra Alves

Sharon Thomson

Shelby Miller

Sinan Imamoglu

Steve Glassman

Sue Dachs

Sue Lancaster

Susan Krever

Susanne Gabriele

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