

## Board of Health - Strategic Plan Development Committee

*(Updated April 24, 2024, 9:46 AM)*

**77 communications with similar text were received between Sunday, April 21, 2024 10:41 AM to Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:39 AM.**

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

RE: My comments for 2024.HX3.2 on April 24, 2024 Board of Health

Dear City Division Board of Health,

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the April 24, 2024 Board of Health - Strategic Plan Development Committee meeting on item 2024.HX3.2, Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan - Summary of Consultation Findings and Emerging Plan

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:

Noise is the new second-hand smoke\*. It's not just a nuisance; it's a public health hazard. Imagine if smoking were allowed again in all public places as it used to be. We would be in an uproar. But far too often, not only do we have to put up with noise pollution in public places, but in our own homes, our sanctuaries. Of course, nobody expects our city to be totally silent, but many will agree that sounds which interfere with our peace and comfort, and more importantly, affect our health, are not only unreasonable, but must be reduced in the name of public health.

I am personally impacted by noise; my health is suffering, and my quality of life has been reduced because of it.

Reducing noise pollution must be made a strategic priority for the next four years.

If TPH is focused on protecting and promoting the health of Toronto residents, making reducing noise pollution a strategic priority will meet the stated objectives of:

- Promoting healthy living – We need you to advocate for changes that creates conditions that protect the health of Toronto residents by reducing noise levels.
- Monitoring the health status of the population through sound-level monitoring and public feedback in order to respond to the rising noise levels in a city that is getting more dense and creating sound canyons that impact hundreds of thousands of people.

- Developing and implementing public policy that prevents the physical and mental harms of noise, and will in turn protect and enhance the health of individuals, communities and the entire city.

For the sake of improving the health and well-being of everyone, TPH must make dealing with noise pollution a priority. It impacts all ages and all demographics, especially the young and the old. It pays no attention to income or status, but due to circumstance impacts marginalized populations more. As Toronto becomes denser and we build higher, more of us will have no defense against the sounds coming from our streets and communities. We urge you to make noise pollution a strategic priority for the next four years.

\*Source:

[https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/fulltext/2023/11000/a\\_new\\_definition\\_of\\_noise.7.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/fulltext/2023/11000/a_new_definition_of_noise.7.aspx)

**From:**

|                                  |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tanya Doyle                      | Jo Gladding        | Agnes Adams        |
| William Hanley                   | John Liss          | Kenneth Goldberg   |
| James Ker                        | Ian Mitchell       | Tom McCarten       |
| Charles Bern                     | Sonia Zadra        | Naomi Schwartz     |
| Douglas Vallery                  | Giselle De Grandis | Valentina Vogman   |
| Connie Gianopoulos               | Tom Goldspink      | Sandra Alves       |
| Eleanor Heinz                    | George Ayoub       | MaryAnn Jansen     |
| Ernie Lynch                      | Andrea Knutson     | Dennis Ing         |
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| Darlene Varaleau                 | Harold Gomez       | Joan Cohen         |
| Mandy Sala                       | Andre Premru       | Geeske Cruickshank |
| Sarena Knapik                    | April Poppe        | Jonathan Bates     |
| Alison Park                      | Daniel Bosc        | TJ Machado         |
| Holly Reid                       | Sue Lancaster      | Sally Gustin       |
| Brock Winterton and Janet Heisey | Nelly Young        | John Day           |
|                                  | Maria Casement     | Diana Hooper       |

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Alan Baker  
Janice Barton  
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Angus MacCaull  
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