



NO MORE NOISE
Toronto

SE8.2 - Service Excellence Committee: Decisions In Progress

June 23, 2025

No More Noise Toronto

- Focused on the noises that wake us up, keep us up and disturb us day and night.
- Grassroots, grown to over 1,550 supporters – FoNTRA & FoSTRA
- Data and Process Oriented
- Engaged in the Civic Process at City Hall
- Our approach has led to collaborative discussions with 4 city divisions: Bylaw enforcement, the Police, Public Health and Toronto at Your Service (311)
- Also collaborate with Civic Tech Toronto, Esri Canada, U of T and TMU, Gasbusters, Quiet Communities (USA) and others



Municipal Licensing & Standards Noise Stats



Carleton Grant – Exec Dir. MLS

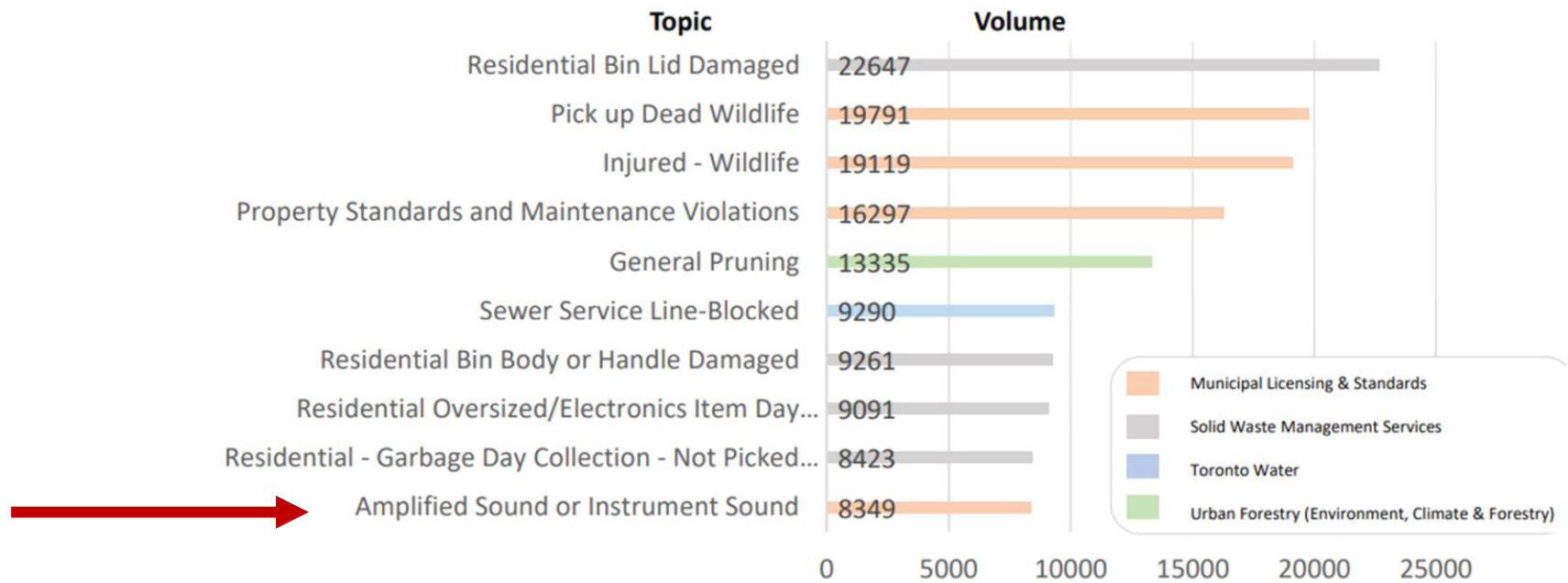
- MLS Enforces > 30 different bylaws
- Noise is one of the top 5 complaints
- 10% of MLS's workload
- Most complex and challenging



Service Requests

➤ Top 10 Service Requests (2024)

The information below provides insight into the issues that matter the most to Torontonians contacting the City through 311:

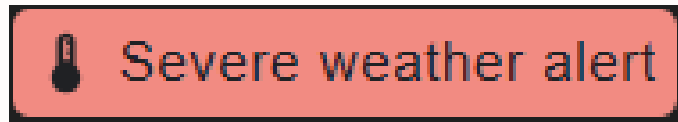


<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/se/bgrd/backgroundfile-253445.pdf>



Exposure

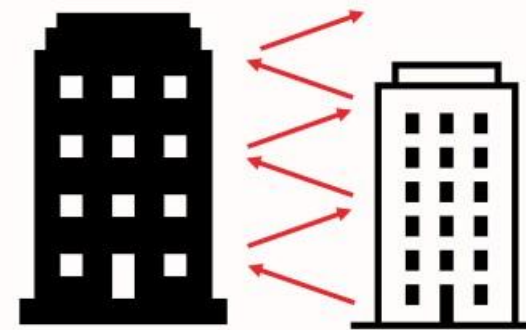
- 1.2 million people live within 100 m of an arterial road (2021 census)
- Experience 142 noise spikes daily (10 dba over average/leq)



For those without AC they have no choice between heat and noise exposure.



Population density: red = higher density, white = lower



Noise Canyon



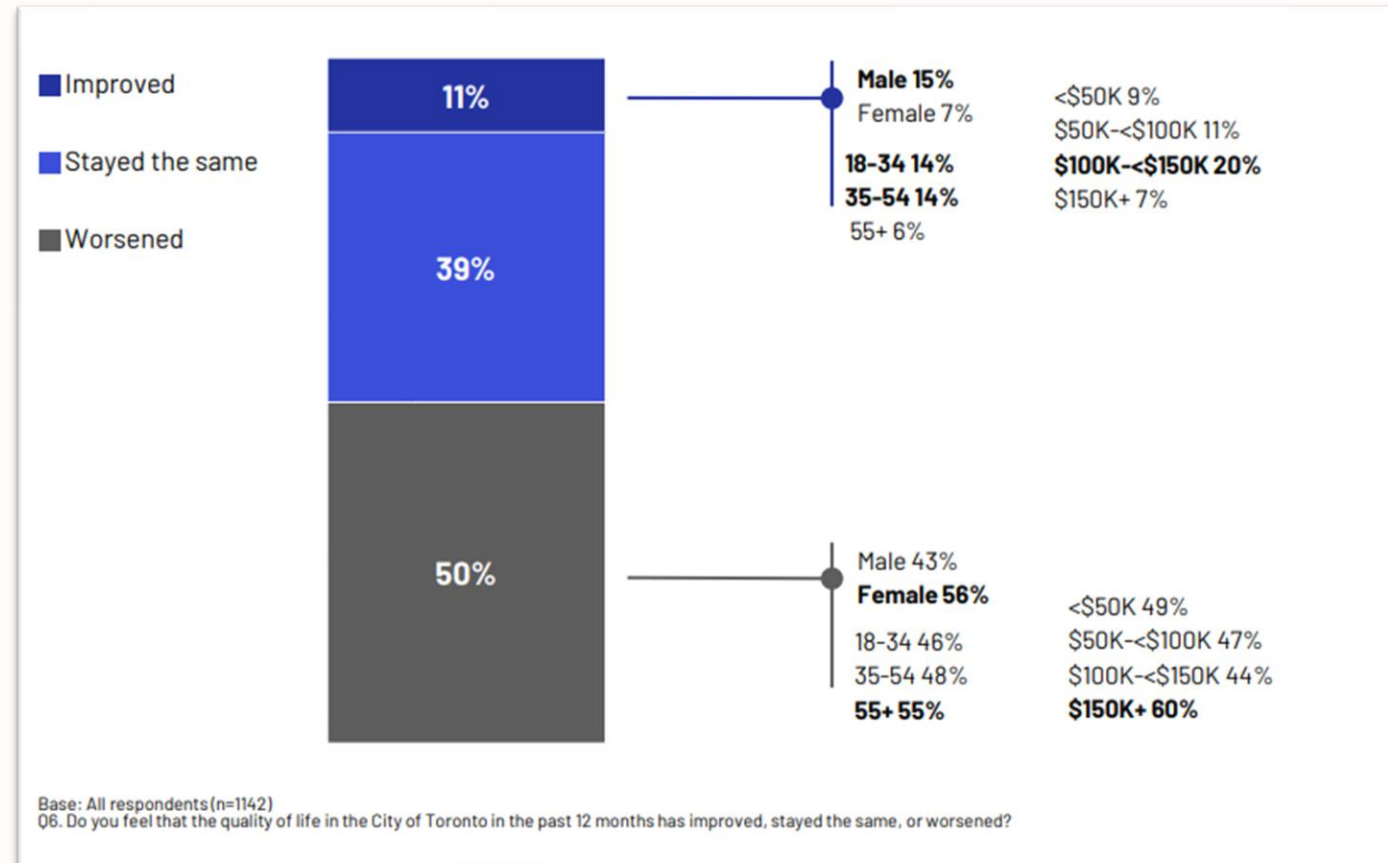
Listening to Toronto Survey

- 64% Torontonians rate the quality of life in Toronto as good or very good
- 50% of Torontonians feel that the quality of life in Toronto in the past 12 months has worsened

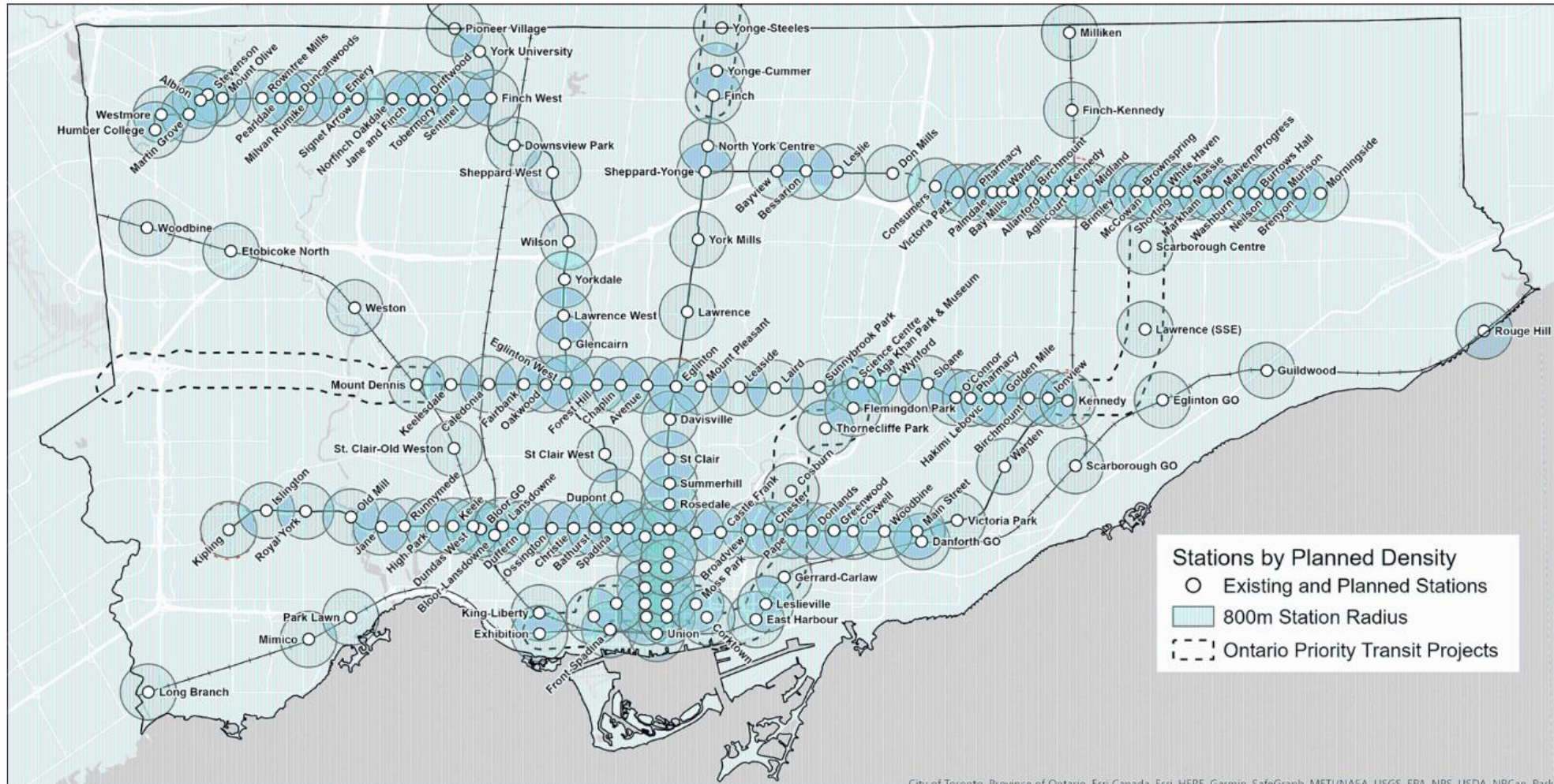
Source:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/se/bgrd/backgroundfile-250918.pdf>

Change in Toronto's Quality of Life Over the Past Year



Density – Major Transit Station Areas



<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b27b774fe9f04047b14956f689a7762f>

Physical Health Outcomes

Of Noise:

- Obesity
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Hypertension
- Arrhythmia
- Diabetes
- Heart Failure
- COPD

From [How Loud is Too Loud](#): Sørensen and colleagues (2011a) reported that in people over 64.5 years of age, exposure to every 10 dBA (Lden) increase in residential road traffic noise was associated with a **27 percent higher risk for stroke**.

From TPH Healthy Aging Summary

Percentage of People Living with Chronic Conditions by Age Groups

Chronic Conditions	Ages 65-74 years	Ages 75+ years
Hypertension ²⁶	57%	83%
Diabetes ²⁷	30%	38%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease ²⁸	15%	23%

Leading Causes of Hospitalization Among Toronto Adults 65 Years and Older in 2022³⁰

Adults 65 to 74 years		Adults 75 years and older	
Cause of Hospitalization	Percentage	Cause of Hospitalization	Percentage
Circulatory	18%	Circulatory	19%
Digestive	11%	Injury and Poisonings	10%

Leading Causes of Death Among Toronto Adults Aged 65 Years and Older in 2021²

Adults 65 to 74 years		Adults 75 years and older	
Cause of Death	Percentage	Cause of Death	Percentage
Ischemic heart disease	13%	Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease	16%
COVID-19	11%	Ischemic heart disease	12%



Mental Health Outcomes

- Mental Health

- Annoyance
- Depression
- [Sleep Disturbance](#)
- [Alzheimer's Disease](#)
- [Dementia](#)
- [Loneliness](#)

- Social isolation

- Loud public spaces
- Loud restaurants
- Hearing loss

Light and noise pollution 'are neglected health hazards', say peers

WHO declares loneliness a 'global public health concern'

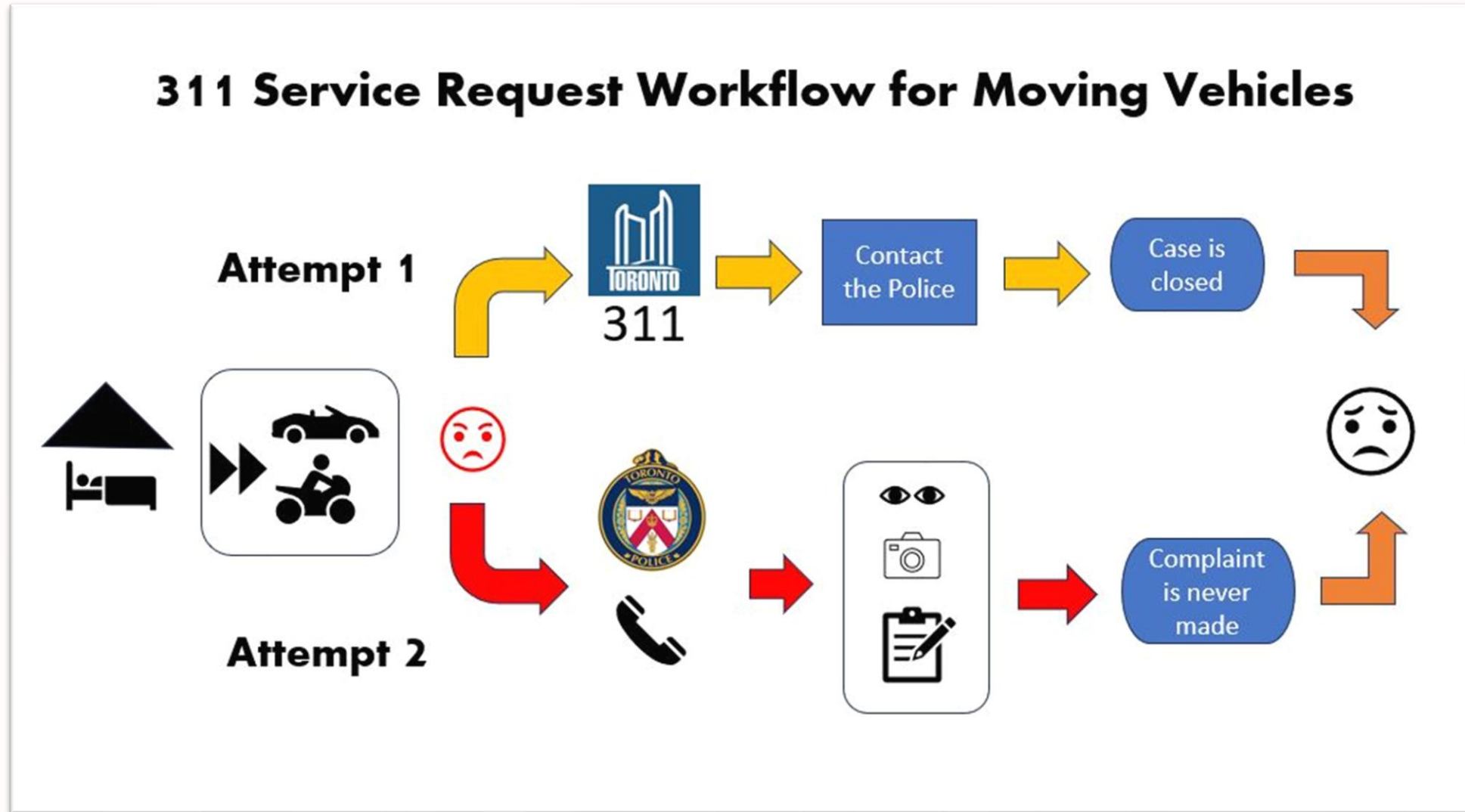
The World Health Organization has launched an international commission on loneliness, which can be as bad for people's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day

Neighborhood Noise May Increase Dementia Risk

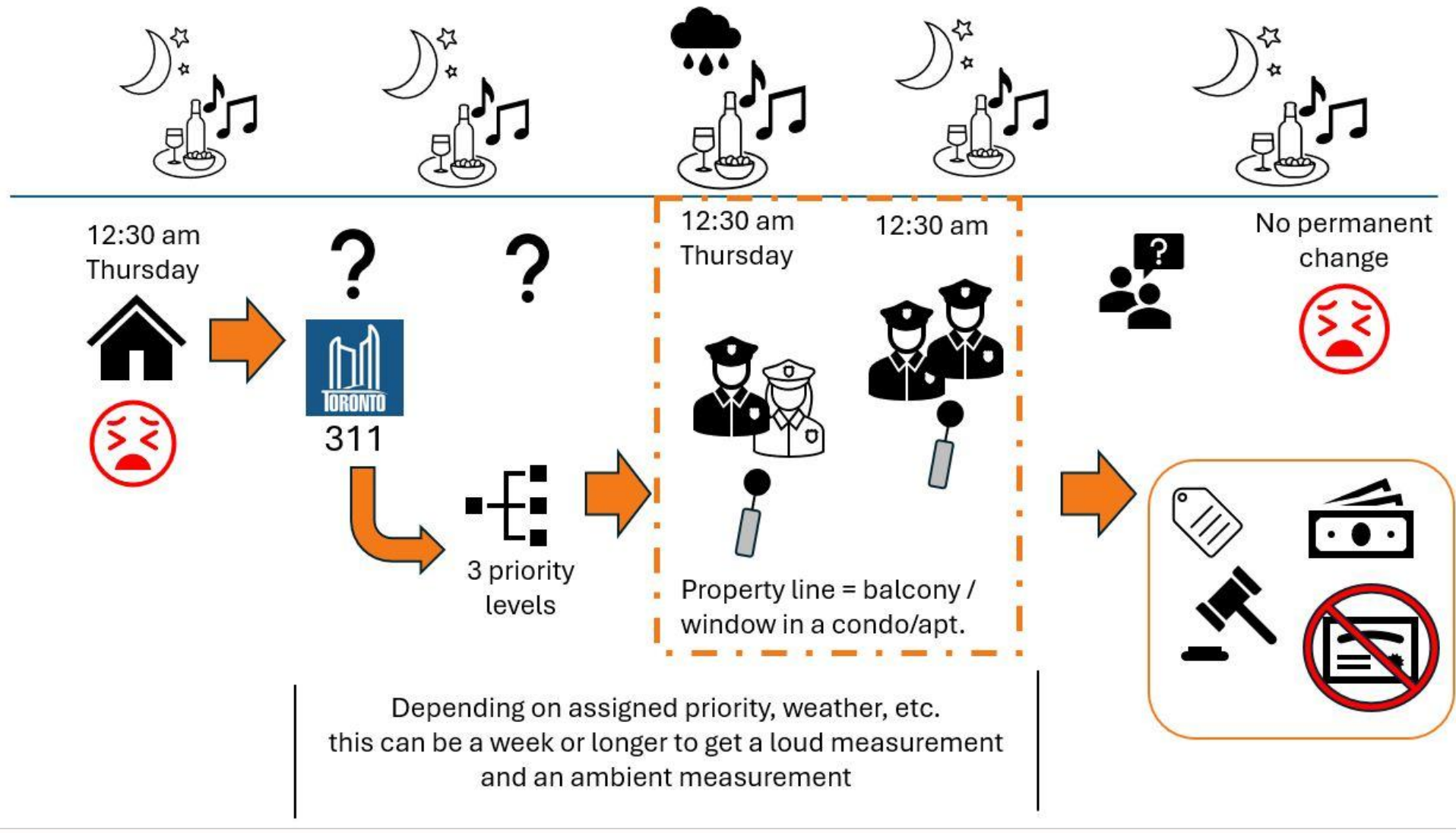
Just 10 decibels more daytime neighborhood noise is associated with 36 percent higher odds of mild cognitive impairment and 30 percent higher odds of having Alzheimer's disease.



This isn't fixed – Moving Vehicle Noise



This isn't fixes – Amplified Sound



Managing Noise

- Create a strategic framework for reducing noise across divisions
 - Office for reducing noise
- Create Service Level Standards for noise (EX21.11)
- Fix reporting process for better data
- Create a map of noise exemption permits
 - Example: temporary liquor licenses
- Reduce the need to report through monitoring
- Improve enforcement



Let's Create a Better Toronto by Reducing Noise



www.nomorenoisetoronto.com

