



Minimizing Sleep Disruption from Siren Noise

Wednesday 25 March 2026

Dear ECDC members:

SUMMARY:

Emergency services vehicles are and must be equipped with sirens and air horns to warn pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to move aside when the emergency services vehicles are responding at speed to an emergency. Unfortunately, in dense downtown areas such as Ward 11, there are a large number of emergency calls 24/7, and therefore a high and growing frequency of middle-of-the-night sirens and air horns.

Ward 11 constituents who live close to EMS or fire stations or hospitals report that the frequent, piercing noise from these sirens and air horns is causing serious and chronic sleep disruptions for residents many storeys above the road. As No More Noise Toronto has documented, chronic sleep disruptions have serious health implications for those affected, and can reduce the safety of third parties by degrading the professional performance of doctors, pilots, and others affected by such sleep disruptions.

Noise is difficult to control in a dense urban area, but our sleep-deprived constituents deserve to know that everything possible is being done to focus necessary warning sounds from emergency vehicles on other road users, and to prevent such sounds from adversely affecting nearby residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

Economic and Community Development Committee requests the Fire Chief and the Chief of Toronto Paramedic Services to collaborate to review all available options for reducing resident sleep disturbances from the use of warning sounds on emergency services vehicles, especially in the immediate vicinity of paramedic and fire stations and hospitals, and to report back to this committee in Q1 of 2027.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Saxe". The letters are fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more stylized.