



April 9, 2026

Via Email

RE: EC27.2 - Review of Toronto's Street Vending and Artists By-laws

Dear Chair Bravo, Vice-Chair Carroll, and Councillors Kandavel, Malik, Mantas, Moise and Shan,

I am writing on behalf of No More Noise, a group working toward solutions for unnecessary and harmful noise that affects all of us, day and night. Of concern is the City's recommendation that buskers be allowed to use sound amplification. We strongly support policies that contribute vibrancy and character to Toronto's public spaces and that enable artists to thrive.

Persistent amplified busking—especially during off-hours—severely degrades residential quality of life. The Rogers Centre case, where a daily drummer forced a resident to move while bylaw officers stood by powerless, proves that current enforcement is failing. If the City cannot stop a single drummer, it is unequipped to handle the broader impact of amplified sound.

Situations such as this demonstrate the need for **a more proactive and responsive noise monitoring and enforcement framework** such as the following:

Clear Expectations & Penalties

- **Explicit Guidance:** Provide buskers with noise regulation manuals during the permitting process.
- **Swift Consequences:** Issue immediate fines or permit suspensions for amplification violations.

Automated Noise Monitoring

- **Proactive Detection:** Install automated sound monitors in high-activity zones to reduce the burden on residents to report via 311.
- **Instant Alerts:** Trigger real-time notifications for bylaw officers when decibel thresholds are exceeded.

Enhanced Enforcement Practices

- **Expanded Schedules:** Increase officer presence during early mornings and weekends to cover current enforcement gaps.
- **Responsive Dispatch:** Shift to a flexible model that targets disturbances when they actually occur.

Source-Based Measurement

- **Direct Monitoring:** Measure sound levels at the source rather than from inside a complainant's home.
- **Broader Impact:** Capture the true effect on the public realm to protect all residents, not just those who complain.

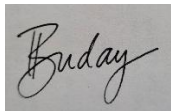
Unified Amplification Standards

- **Universal Rules:** Apply identical noise limits to festivals, bars, street preachers, and promotional teams.
- **Regulatory Fairness:** Ensure consistent penalties and enforcement across all outdoor amplified sound sources.

Toronto's public spaces should be both vibrant and livable. With enhancements to monitoring and enforcement, the City can continue to support street performance while also protecting residents from the health harms of excessive and prolonged noise exposure.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. I welcome the opportunity to discuss these suggestions further.

Thank you,



Ingrid Buday

Founder and Executive Director, No More Noise

Cc: Chair Bravo,
Vice-Chair Carroll,
Councillor Kandavel,
Councillor Malik,
Councillor Mantas,
Councillor Moise,
Councillor Shan