



April 1, 2019

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
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email: ecdc@toronto.ca
Attention: Carol Kaustinen

Dear Chair Michael Thompson and Members, Economic and Community Development Committee

RE: EC 3.6 Noise By-law Review – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 591, Noise

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit volunteer organization comprised over 30 member organizations. We have been a member of the Toronto Noise Coalition (TNC) since 2016 and have been actively involved in the City initiatives to develop a new noise bylaw.

We believe the City should provide leadership in developing an effective and well enforced noise by-law that is part of the City's Noise Management Action Plan. Its first priority must be to protect Torontonians from excessive noise, and be based on best practices of large and complex cities like ours, not on what small cities do, make use of new technologies, and be supported by strong enforcement and public education programs.

In our opinion there has been inadequate time for review of the Noise By-law report, given the complexity of the issues, the number of proposed changes to the current by-law, and the lack of clear rationales/explanations for many of the changes.

Stakeholders such as the TNC need a chance to meet with the ML&S staff to understand the rationale for all of the proposals, bring to their attention the shortcomings of many of their proposed amendments and provide better solutions. Regrettably, ML&S seems to be simply going through the motions with community consultations and apparently decided to make their proposed amendments based on what was convenient for staff and not necessarily what is best for the residents of the City. We therefore request:

- That the proposed report be referred back to staff for further consultation with stakeholders

FoNTRA members live in a variety of different neighbourhoods that have variable priorities in terms of protection from excessive noise and concerns about the proposed new regulations to meet these. These particularly include:

- Protection from excessive noise as well as vibration (missing in the proposed bylaw) at all times through the General Provision.

- Protection from excessive noise from amplified sound from outdoor patios. We want to see amplified sound primarily controlled at the source through monitoring at source. We do agree that the “point of reception option” must remain in case of non-compliance. But it requires a working enforcement system, as residents must call 311 and hopefully to have a Bylaw Enforcement Officer attend their homes while the noise is ongoing. But a lower maximum limit of 42dB(A) indoors is required.
- Protection from excessive construction noise, through noise mitigation plans for exemptions. There should also be new steps taken to reduce unnecessary excessive noise during permitted work hours, such as through the use of standardized noise mitigation plans and advice on quieter machines and ways of working. The current construction management plans may represent a model.
- Protection from deafening noise from leaf blowers during permitted operating hours, such as replacing them asap with quieter electric machines using a new regulation that limits leafblower noise to 65 dB.
- Protection from disturbances from noisy motorcycles as proposed, but reducing the maximum dB to 82, as well as adding other noisy performance vehicles.

We support the proposal to substantially increase penalties for non-compliance. But we are concerned that the by-law enforcement program is insufficient, especially given the withdrawal of the Toronto Police Service involvement. We look forward to further reporting on the scope and content of the bylaw enforcement program. We also look forward to reviewing how the new Noise By-law strengthens the Public Health’s report on the Noise Management Action Plan.

We look forward to being part of finalizing the Noise By-law to meet the needs of all Torontonians, residents and as well as noise making businesses.

Respectfully submitted.

Yours truly,

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c.c. Mayor John Tory, Councillors Matlow, Colle, Wong Tam, Layton, Robinson, Minnan Wong, Filion
Elizabeth Glibbery, Interim Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
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