

SAHRA Information – May 6, 2016

NOISE ALERT - HELP IMPROVE TORONTO'S NOISE BYLAW! updates

Correction...the current members of the Licensing Standards Committee are:

councillor_palacio@toronto.ca; councillor_digiorgio@toronto.ca; councillor_Matlow@toronto.ca;
councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca; councillor_deBaeremaeker@toronto.ca

New news...

The Toronto Noise Coalition's press release released this past Wednesday is attached. Also see the August 28, 2015 Health briefing note. It is absolutely crucial that the residents write Councillor Carmichael Greb, Mayor Tory, the ML&S Committee and Dr. David McKeown, Toronto's Medial Office of Health to improve the revisions and attend the ML&S committee hearing on May 19th at City Hall to express their concerns.

David McKeown (medicalofficerofhealth@toronto.ca)

ML&S Committee members (lsc@toronto.ca)

Mayor Tory (mayor_tory@toronto.ca)

The construction and music industries have been very effective pressing ML&S to relax noise regulations and enforcement. Furthermore there is pressure to push the revisions through prematurely to enable the City's music strategy. Toronto Public Health has "begun the review of the most current evidence of the impacts of noise on health" which will be released after the noise by-law will have been enacted when it will be too late. We need to point this out to Torontonians.

Here are the statistics analysed from Municipal Licencing & Standards, Staff Report LS9.1 January 11, 2016:

| Year | Noise Complaints | % Increase since 2011 |
|------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2011 | 3273 | N/A |
| 2012 | 4139 | 26% |
| 2013 | 5442 | 66% |
| 2104 | 6477 | 98% |
| 2015 | 9037 | 176% |

Please forward an email to the officials stating your views.

From: Sahra Toronto [<mailto:sahratoronto@rogers.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 4:47 PM
Subject: SAHRA Information - May 2, 2016

SAHRA supports the efforts of FoNTRA, CORRA, Residents' Associations and residents across the City who are concerned about Toronto's proposed Noise Bylaw. SAHRA will submit a letter of concern to the Mayor, our Councillor, the Municipal Licensing and Standards Committee and the Medical Officer of Health. We also encourage our Members to take Action. We need to work together for a strong noise bylaw to protect our peace and quiet.

NOISE ALERT - HELP IMPROVE TORONTO'S NOISE BYLAW!

The threat to a strong noise bylaw that protects the health of residents continues.

Toronto's Noise bylaw needs to address your concerns. 82.5% of respondents to the City's April 2015 noise consultation indicated noise problems in their Ward. The most common noise impacts, in addition to general disturbance, were sleep loss/insomnia and stress.

The current proposal should be unacceptable to every Toronto resident. It removes daytime protection for all types of noise (the General Provision that provides a right to peace and quiet) and has unenforceable requirements for amplified sound, day and night (decibel measurements by bylaw officers).

This issue will be brought forward at a May 19th Hearing at City Hall. The commercial music and construction industries have been meeting privately with Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) for a number of months, with the support of the City's Economic and Development Staff. Their voices are being heard. It is expected that commercial music and construction industries will be at the May 19th meeting to put their interests forward.

Below is information prepared by a working group within FoNTRA (Federation of North Toronto Ratepayers Associations) which outlines the problems with the current revision as well as "A 7-Point Plan" for an effective bylaw.

We must make our voices heard too, loud and clear. We need your views to be made known to the Mayor, our Councillor, Municipal Licensing Standards and the Toronto Medical Officer of Health.

TAKE ACTION NOW

- **Email Mayor Tory** - urge him to emulate New York City's Mayor Bloomberg and enact a comprehensive noise by-law protecting Torontonians' quality of life
Mayor_tory@toronto.ca
- **Email your City Councillor** - tell them about your noise concerns and advocate for the **7-Point Solution**
Councillor_carmichaelqreb@toronto.ca
- **Email the ML&S Committee members** - advocate for a comprehensive and effective noise bylaw; also forward copies to the Councillors who are on this Committee.
lsc@toronto.ca

councillor_palacio@toronto.ca; councillor_digiorgio@toronto.ca; councillor_Matlow@toronto.ca;
councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca; councillor_deBaeremaeker@toronto.ca

- **Email Toronto's Medical Officer of Health** - ask him to help regulate harmful noise
Dr. David McKeown medicalofficerofhealth@toronto.ca

Attend the May 19 Hearing at City Hall and voice your opinion.

Toronto's noise bylaw must reflect the City's changing landscape and advances in acoustic technology. New York City's Noise Code shows it is possible and necessary to support the 24/7 business and entertainment life of a truly great city while enacting and enforcing effective noise regulations to reduce unwanted and harmful sound. Toronto needs to follow New York City's example.

FoNTRA Outline:

City Hall's proposed noise by-law revisions ignore Torontonians' concerns. Judging from City Staff's January recommendations they have:

- **Removed existing noise bylaw safeguards**
- **Weakened noise protection provisions, and**
- **Weakened protection of Torontonians' health and quality of life.**

Problems if the Noise bylaw is not improved:

- **Insufficient enforcement staff who are unavailable after normal business hours**
- **A lost opportunity to control the City's growing construction noise**
- **Loud amplified music from bars and large concerts booming into homes and city parks**
- **Loss of protection from many noise sources between 7 AM and 11 PM**
- **Noisy motorcycles thundering unrestricted through city streets**
- **Leaf blowers blasting away calm and tranquility of residential neighbourhoods at any time of day**
- **24/7 HVAC equipment noise and vibration disturbances from supermarkets, condos and offices**

Why is the City not listening to Toronto Public Health's August 28, 2015 memo stating:

"While noise has typically been controlled to address quality of life issues and noise-induced hearing loss, there is evidence that exposure to noise also has impacts on health at levels below which impacts on hearing acuity occur. These adverse health effects could occur at levels below 50 dBA.

A quality outdoor environment can support more active living (more walking or cycling, or active recreation). Limiting average outdoor noise levels to below 55 dBA (daytime) is therefore desirable for health.

Keeping levels of noise below the provincial Environmental Noise Guideline (NPC-300) is desirable as sleep disturbance has been shown to occur at levels as low as 32 dBA".

A 7-POINT PLAN

1. Declaration of Policy

Like New York City, clearly state the Noise By-law's purpose is protecting Torontonians' health and quality of life.

2. General Provision

Retain the General Provision for 24/7 protection from vibrations and sound of such a volume or nature that it is likely to disturb City inhabitants.

3. Amplified Sound

Replace, improve and enforce the specific prohibition of amplified noise projected beyond a property line onto streets or public places including City parks for loud-speakers and other problematic noise sources such as leaf blowers and motorcycles.

4. Construction

Toronto will be “under construction” for years. Follow New York City’s regulations. Examples:

- Require Noise Mitigation Plans for all construction work.
- Prohibit construction except for owner-occupied homes on weekends and statutory holidays from May to October.

5. Mechanical Equipment

Include standards and regulate disruptive noise from HVAC equipment and compressors.

6. Exceptions

Must be considered a privilege not a right and restrict hours and amplified sound levels.

- Offer "Series approvals" only to applicants with good records with an upper limit of three at a time.
- Require Noise Mitigation Plans for all exceptions.
- Limit the number of permits approved in any park each year.
- Set an end time of 10 pm for events in neighbourhood parks.

7. Enforcement

City Council must increase investment for effective and timely enforcement 24/7 and authorize police and by-law enforcement officers to issue summonses, tickets and notices for Noise By-law violations.