

HL20.5.1

From: [Liz Sauter](#)
To: [Board of Health](#)
Cc: [Mayor Tory](#); [Councillor Cressy](#); [Brent Gilliard](#); [Lynn Robinson](#); [Ulla Colgrass](#); [Cathie Macdonald](#); [Ian Carmichael](#); [Mary Helen Spence](#); [Harold Smith](#); [Alan Baker](#); [Cristina Panneton](#); [Dieter Riedel](#)
Subject: Toronto Board of Health Report - How Loud is Too Loud - Health Impacts of Environmental Noise in Toronto - Monday, June 12, 2017 Meeting
Date: Sunday, June 11, 2017 11:45:14 AM
Attachments: [TNC Deputation on TPH Report Final.pdf](#)

Attached is the Toronto Noise Coalition's Deputation to the Committee meeting on Monday, June 12th, 2017.

Noise is a very serious and intrusive issue that continues to rise in Toronto. It is more than just traffic noise. Intrusive amplified sound, way too permissive and too many exemption permits, construction noise that should be mitigated using sound baffles and blankets like other cities are mandated to use, banning loud gas powered leaf blowers and motor vehicles/motorcycles that have been modified are just a few of the areas that the City bylaws need to get tough on. Enforcement is weak especially for the repeat offenders.

We know it can be done. NYC (an economic world class leader) has taken tough measures in their Noise Bylaw to protect the health of their citizens and Toronto should do the same. They have experts who sit on the City's Advisory Noise Committee to the Mayor. They continue to research areas where they can improve and implement those changes. We should and can be leaders in Toronto too. We need to be proactive in how we deal with noise issues and not let industry dictate to us how we should live. We need to put the health of our residents first if we want a livable city.

And finally we need ACTION immediately not just talk!

Please make sure the Noise Bylaw and its enforcement protects its citizens and adheres to "No person shall make, cause or permit noise or vibration, at any time, which is likely to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the inhabitants of the City."

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June 8, 2017

Board of Health Committee
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Dear Board of Health Members
Subject: Toronto Public Health Report

Members of the Toronto Noise Coalition (TNC) are Toronto residents and business people. We have an ever-growing membership from across the City, working together to ensure that Toronto remains a livable city with no adverse impacts of noise on our health. Noise levels are a key factor in our ability to share a healthy and enjoyable life, yet City reports show that noise complaints increased 312% in the past 5 years.

TNC welcomes the report "*How Loud is too Loud?*" from Toronto Public Health on "Health Impacts of Environmental Noise in Toronto". The evidence suggests from the most up-to-date science, that noise induces hearing loss as well as has negative impacts on our cardiovascular and pulmonary health, cognitive impairments, sleep disturbance, and mental health. The growing evidence on the impact on children's health of exposure to noise and the association to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms as well as diabetes are of great concern to our society. This information must be a call for action by our civic leaders.

TNC adds the following key points to the messages contained therein:

1. Immediate adoption of the WHO standards in the City's noise bylaw
2. Fund and require adequate enforcement of these standards
3. Take action with a sense of urgency

TNC strongly feels that the World Health organization standards must be the ones set as standards in the Toronto Noise bylaw being created now. However, without strong enforcement and penalties this will not be realized. A noise bylaw that will do its job of protecting the public health of Torontonians:

- Must be a comprehensive Noise Management Strategy including a well-funded enforcement plan
- Must reach international standards for health protections and noise control
- Must address the concerns registered by residents across the city; concerns about the need to better manage noise from construction activities, amplified sound, motorcycles, and leaf-blowers, amongst many other important details

You as Members of the Board of Health **CAN** protect the health of Toronto residents from the daily bombardment and increasing levels we experience from noise. There is no excuse not to get tough on the bylaws. Creating an effective Noise Management Plan for the City of Toronto is one of THE most important things the City can do to protect the public health of its residents. It will define the quality of life of Torontonians for generations to come.

City and TNC surveys, the stories you have heard today and that TNC hears every day, show Toronto residents are suffering from noise levels that can cause the serious health affects you outline. We have heard from people who are desperate to have noise volumes turned way down from amplified sound, intrusive events, construction, motor vehicles (screeching cars and motorcycles), mechanical equipment and noisy intrusive lawn care equipment. Recent media stories highlighted the effect of noise on the residents in mid-

town Toronto, the noise from tearing down the York/Bay/Yonge ramp absolutely is driving the neighbourhood crazy and seriously affecting their health and AGCO hearings are underway to deal with loud, intrusive concerts along the Waterfront.

We know how loud is too loud!

The risks to public health are clear. Excess noise presents a clear and present danger to the public health of Toronto's residents. However, the recommendations before you today do not take sufficient action to ameliorate that danger.

One of your recommendations calls on the Ontario Minister of Environment and Climate Change to **adopt** some of the World Health Organization's recommended noise guidelines to ensure the guidelines re health are protective. However, your mandate is to ensure public health programs and services are delivered according to provincial standards and in response to local needs; and to advise CITY Council on health issues.

The report says, "The Medical Officer of Health recommends that the City develop a noise management action plan that identifies measures that the City can take to reduce adverse health impacts from exposure to environmental noise in Toronto", but your recommendation is to simply forward this report to several city departments without any call for action or recommendations to guide them.

We do not feel that your recommendations are strong enough to have an impact on our lives and give us relief from the noise intrusions of every day.

We call on you to meet your mandate and include in your recommendations one that calls on the Mayor and City Council to take leadership to protect the health of Torontonians by enacting a noise bylaw that has as its purpose to protect the public health of Torontonians and also to advise the City to:

1. Adopt the World Health Organization's recommended noise guidelines of 40 dBA night time and 55 dBA day time in the Toronto Noise Bylaw presently under review
2. Ensure adequate enforcement of these standards

We are here to ask you, the members of the Board of Health to join with us to be strong advocates for better protection for Toronto residents by insisting the City of Toronto protect its residents from unacceptable and health debilitating noise.

In summary, the creation of an effective Noise Management Plan for the City of Toronto is one of the most important tasks for the City. The WHO standards must be adopted immediately; must be supported with adequate enforcement, and these actions must be taken with a sense of urgency.

Noise Management will define the quality of life of Torontonians for generations to come. In a CTV News interview June 9, Dr. de Villa said our collective job is to "create the healthiest city possible". The Toronto Noise Coalition emphatically agrees!

Sincerely



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cc: Toronto City Councillors
Mayor John Tory