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TO: mlsfeedback@toronto.ca

Implementation Review of the Noise Bylaw

Copy: Councillor Dianne Saxe
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

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EC3.6 - Noise By-law Review - Proposed Amendments to Chapter 591, Noise Necessity for BOTH Loudness and Pitch Measurement of Noise

I am writing on issues relating to the above and request for public feedback for consideration in the report that's going to the Economic and Community Development Committee of Toronto City Council this coming November. I have direct experience of noise pollution as a Condo owner at 95 Prince Arthur Ave related to a howling rooftop air conditioner and our use of squealing leaf blowers.

Loudness with Pitch are BOTH Noise Pollution Dimensions

I feel the new city ByLaw is fundamentally flawed in a major way. This is because the City noise ByLaw relies only on loudness in decibel units (Db) while pitch in hertz units (Hz) frequency is ignored. **Low frequencies (low pitched) sound must be much more intense to sound equally as loud as higher frequency (high pitch) sounds.**

Despite the added complexity, limits could be set for both loudness and pitch in combination. Indeed, loudness limits should have a pitch and distance "basis". I would urge the City to re-investigate introducing noise pollution measurement that takes both loudness and pitch into account. Continuous noise monitoring should be employed as wind direction is a factor.

Collateral Pollution Factor

Building-top air conditioners are mostly noise polluting, but noise polluting leaf blowers also cause huge amounts of direct and indirect air pollution and are also pose acute & chronic health risk. Air conditioning is essential to good health, leaf-blowers are decidedly damaging to health.

It is common sense that the **collateral damage factor for leaf-blowers should be an essential parameter in the setting of noise limits for their use.**

Editor

editor@real95princearthur.com