



Report Number: EC2023-0642

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2023 June 01

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Noise Policy to Protect the Health and Quality of Life of Calgarians

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Walcott, Councillor Spencer, Councillor Wong

WHEREAS...

- Exposure to environmental noise is known to have substantial negative health impacts on humans, including but not limited to cardiovascular effects, cognitive impacts, sleep disturbances, mental health impacts, and pulmonary effects;¹ and
- Other jurisdictions in Canada and around the world have developed policies and actions plans, established urban noise observatories,² and have undertaken measurable steps to reduce the exposure of their residents to environmental noise,³ following best practices set out by international health authorities;⁴

AND WHEREAS...

- The City of Calgary, through land use regulation, street design, transportation planning, bylaw enforcement, equipment procurement, among other measures, has the ability and duty to mitigate and minimize a range of causes of environmental noise, thereby reducing the long-term cumulative impacts of noise-related disease;⁵
- Decisions protecting and promoting health should be evidence-based, cost-effective, and timely;
- Positive or desirable sounds should be considered a part of urban planning and public space design;
- Effective management of noise requires a co-ordinated and long-term approach that encompasses many aspects of modern society;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ...

- 1) That Council direct Administration to return to Council in Q1 of 2024 with:
 - a) a draft noise policy vision⁶ that includes the protection of public health and the importance of sound and acoustics in creating liveable and engaging urban spaces;
 - b) a review of existing noise-related bylaws:
 - (1) evaluating their alignment with existing national and international health guidelines;⁷ and,

¹ [How Loud is Too Loud: Health Impacts of Environmental Noise in Toronto \(toronto.ca\)](https://toronto.ca/health/2017/04/11/how-loud-is-too-loud/);

² See, for example, Paris' [Bruitparif](https://bruitparis.fr/) and similar [proposals in Montreal](#).

³ [Environmental Noise Directive \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002L0025); [Towards a comprehensive noise strategy \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32002L0025);

⁴ [Environmental noise guidelines for the European Region \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/Environmental-noise-guidelines-for-the-European-Region)

⁵ [Burden of disease from environmental noise: Quantification of healthy life years lost in Europe \(euro.who.int\)](https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environmental-health/evidence/quantification-of-healthy-life-years-lost-in-europe).

⁶ See, for example, the [Noise Policy Statement for England \(gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614441/noise-policy-statement-for-england.pdf)

⁷ Health Canada. (2017). [Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessment: Noise](https://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/eng/publicat/guidance/guidance_ehpa_ehpa-eng.php).

- (2) surveying best practices in other municipalities, including mitigation measures related to weather events, entertainment events, and construction in or near residential areas;⁸
- c) The identification of potential funding sources, a workplan, and budget request to support:
- i) city-wide information collection (noise mapping) and public disclosure of noise exposure information, and plans for mitigation measures, to be updated at a regular interval;
 - ii) recommendations for applicable bylaw changes based on the above review; and
 - iii) a pilot project that engages Calgarians in soundscape assessment, drawing from existing local engagement methods⁹ and other community engagement work.¹⁰

Attachment

1. Notice of Motion Checklist

⁸ See, for example, [City of Victoria: Noise Bylaw: Bylaw No. 03-012](#).

⁹ [Home | Engage \(calgary.ca\)](#)

¹⁰ Droumeva, M., Copeland, S., Ashleigh, B. & L. Knight (2020). [Livable Soundscapes: A Toolkit for Communities. Sonic Research Studio](#). See also Epstein, M. J. (2021). [Healing the urban soundscape: reflections and reverberations](#). *Cities & Health*, 5(1-2), 74-81; [Montréal Sound Map \(montrealsoundmap.com\)](#); [Tranquil City \(tranquilitycity.co.uk\)](#).