

Community Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2024 July 24

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2024-0841

## Amendment to Noise Rules for Event Centre Concerts

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to amend the Community Standards Bylaw 32M2023 to accommodate occasional sound levels that are anticipated to be generated by indoor concerts at the Event Centre.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

In April 2023, by approving report C2023-0482, Council directed Administration to work towards definitive agreements with Calgary Sports and Entertainment and the Government of Alberta that would lead to the design and construction of the Calgary Event Centre and associated Culture + Entertainment District improvements.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Community Development Committee recommend that Council:

1. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw, in Attachment 2, to amend the Community Standards Bylaw 32M2023.
2. Forward this recommendation to the 2024 July 30 Regular meeting of Council.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 2024 JULY 24:

That Council give three readings to **Proposed Bylaw 34M2024** to amend the Community Standards Bylaw 32M2023.

Opposition to Recommendation: Councillor Dhaliwal

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Chief Operating Officer Stuart Dagleish and General Managers Katie Black (Community Services) and Michael Thompson (Infrastructure Services) support the Community Standards Bylaw amendments. The identified accommodation will support and enable the new Event Centre to be a world-class entertainment hub for Calgary.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Reaching the Event Centre's full potential as a live music venue requires amending the noise rules in the Community Standards Bylaw 32M2023 to allow louder sound levels to continue later at night.
- The bylaw amendment would allow up to two additional hours of music at night which, to an observer on a balcony across the street from the Event Centre, would seem about as loud as being in a busy restaurant.
- The rule change is expected to be leveraged between five and ten times per year, when particularly loud musical acts perform at the Event Centre.
- Increasing the number of concerts at the Event Centre aligns with the goal of having the Culture + Entertainment District be a vibrant and high-energy neighbourhood.

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- Residential developments closest to the Event Centre have not been designed. Future developers and buyers will be aware of neighbourhood noise considerations before building or purchasing in the area.

### DISCUSSION

The Event Centre agreements between The City, Calgary Sports and Entertainment, and The Government of Alberta stipulate that the design and expected operation of the Event Centre must comply with all relevant rules and regulations.

The noise rules in the Community Standards Bylaw 32M2023 are based around the concept of “point of reception.” Generally, where a sound is generated does not impact which sound level limits apply. What matters is how loud the sound is where the noise is received. The Event Centre’s full potential as a music venue would not be achieved if restricted by the existing 50dBA night-time (after 10 p.m.) limit on sound received at a residential development.

Administration is recommending Council amend the existing noise rules in the Community Standards bylaw 32M2023 to allow best use of the Event Centre.

The proposed bylaw amendment will allow activities inside the Event Centre to generate a higher level of night-time sound than the 50dBA currently allowed. Instead, sound that is transmitted out of the building will be allowed until 11:59 p.m. at a maximum level of 64dBA when measured at a residential point of reception. This revised rule is expected to be relevant between five and ten times per year during particularly loud concerts.

The likely loudest point of reception would be an outdoor balcony of a south-facing residential unit of a mixed-use tower planned for the north side of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE that would be located around 40m from the Event Centre. When a concert in the Event Centre produces the maximum amount of sound allowed in the proposed amendment, an observer on this balcony would experience noise levels similar to being in a busy restaurant, which could continue as late as 11:59 p.m. The level would be similar to the daytime noise limit. The sound level experienced inside the unit would be lower.

The residents who live in the area today who would be most impacted by the proposed change would experience sound on an outdoor balcony about as loud standing next to a household refrigerator. The sound level experienced inside the unit would be lower.

### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Calgary Municipal Land Corporation were informed of the proposed bylaw amendment.

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### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

This amendment will allow the new Event Centre to deliver the intended function of supporting a vibrant Culture + Entertainment District. A vibrant and high-energy atmosphere around the Event Centre, different from anything else in Calgary, could contribute to a unique sense of place in the area.

#### **Environmental**

Increased levels of night-time sound generated by Event Centre, combined with an extended duration of when that sound is allowed may have impact on nearby residents for between five and ten nights per year.

#### **Economic**

Allowing the Event Centre to operate at its full function as a music venue is expected to increase economic activity in the Culture + Entertainment district and contribute to Calgary's growing reputation as a year-round cultural destination.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

##### **Cost savings**

There is no operational financial impact associated with the proposed bylaw amendment. By amending this bylaw, several million dollars in capital costs are avoided.

### **RISK**

If Council decided not to approve the proposed bylaw change, funds will need to be redirected to meeting the existing night-time noise rules. This would create unplanned budget pressures on the project, which would be managed by scaling back on other elements of the approved scope.

Approving the proposed bylaw change increases the risk of residents being exposed to elevated levels of sound between 10 p.m. and midnight, especially on outdoor balconies. The impact of the change is mitigated by the most impacted units not yet having been designed, and the frequency being five to ten times per year.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. **Proposed Bylaw 34M2024**
3. Presentation

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Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Approve
Stuart Dalgleish	Chief Operating Officer	Approve

Author: Community Strategies Business Unit - Policy & Bylaw Development

**City Clerks: B. Dufault / C. Doi**