



REQUEST FOR A DECISION

Regular City Council – April 8, 2024

To: Her Worship Mayor Kate Rogers and Members of City Council

From: Martin Gaudet, Police Chief

Date: March 18, 2024

Title: Amendments to By-law S-17 A By-law Respecting Disturbance By Noise

ISSUE:

Staff would like Council to consider amendments to By-law S-17 A By-law Respecting Disturbance by Noise to deal with excessive vehicle noise throughout the city.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

A. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration: BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council for the City of Fredericton authorizes and directs the Legal Division to repeal all reference to decibels, units of measure, sound tests and instruments and make necessary amendments to By-law No. S-17, A By-law Respecting Disturbance by Noise

SITUATION, BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:

SITUATION: Explain briefly, why we are acting.

- a. Current (extant) Direction. At the April 26, 2021, Council gave third reading to changes to the noise by-law to incorporate sound level benchmarks and associated provisions.
- b. Alignment. People-focused by ensuring our external programs and services meet the needs of the community.
- c. Link to CAO goal or inflight. Standard business.
- d. Why is this coming to Council and why now? Staff would like by-law changes before spring when vehicular noise increases.

BACKGROUND.

In 2021, Council passed amendments to By-Law No. S-17, A By-law Respecting Disturbance by Noise in an effort to make changes to address excessive vehicle noise. Loud vehicle noise continues to be a nuisance throughout the city and affects all sectors of the population. It prevents residents and guests from enjoying the peaceful, quiet use of their homes, neighbourhoods, outdoor venues and outside eating venues within the city.

The purpose of the by-law amendment in 2021 was to provide stronger, clearer language that would clearly articulate what constitutes excessive noise. Stronger, clearer language in the by-

law would help the police better enforce excessive noise violations. The by-law amendment is not meant to target specific groups but rather any vehicle, whether it is a motorcycle, older model car, new car, truck, etc., all vehicles would be subject to the regulations of excessive noise, the current by-law we use for loud parties.

DISCUSSION.

Staff have had three years to evaluate the affects of the previous by-law amendment , found them to be ineffective in meeting the needs of the community and would like to make changes to improve enforcement.

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- **FINANCIAL:** The Department/Division has determined that there are no financial considerations associated with this matter. The City Treasurer was not specifically consulted with respect to this administrative report.
 - **LEGAL:** A by-law amendment is required to effect the requested change.
 - **COMMUNICATIONS:** Police Communications will create a plan for communicating with the public.
 - **CLIMATE LENS:**

Does this proposal move the City of Fredericton closer to its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets of 50% reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2050 in line with the City's Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan and/or Community Energy Emission Plan?

- ☐ Moves us towards GHG reduction targets
- ☒ No change in GHG emissions
- ☐ Moves us away from GHG targets but there are trade-offs with other Council or Municipal Plan priorities (*identify which priorities*)

Does this proposal improve the City of Fredericton's resilience to the impacts of climate change in line with our Climate Change Adaptation Plan?

- ☐ Moves us towards climate resilience
- ☒ No change in resilience
- ☒ Moves us away from climate resilience but there are trade-offs with other Council or Municipal Plan priorities (*identify which priorities*)

SPOKESPERSON:

Prepared by: *Brian Ford, Deputy Police Chief*

Approved by: *Martin Gaudet, Police Chief*