SUBJECT: Amendment to Nuisance and Noise By-law 19-2003 and results from Halton Regional Police Service's pilot project to stop noisy moving vehicles

TO: Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Mayor's Office

Report Number: MO-11-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 760-07

Date to Committee: September 10, 2019

Date to Council: September 23, 2019

Recommendation:

Direct the Director of City Building to amend Nuisance and Noise By-Law 19-2003 to include language that prohibits the use of air horns at all public events; and

Direct the Director of Transportation, in partnership with Halton Regional Police Service to report back on the results of the Halton Regional Police Service's blitz on excessively noisy moving vehicles this summer/fall.

Purpose:

To support the reduction of noise pollution within our City and, by doing so, support the following broader goals:

A Healthy and Greener City
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Environmental and Energy Leadership

An Engaging City
- Good Governance

Background and Discussion:

In light of multiple complaints of excessive air horn use at outdoor sporting events surrounded by residential areas we feel it is appropriate to ban their use altogether, particularly in light of precedent set in other municipalities like Toronto.

In Toronto, Municipal Code 591 states:

“No person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of sound resulting from the operation of any electronic device or a group of connected electronic devices incorporating one or more loudspeakers or other electro mechanical transducers, and intended for the production, reproduction or amplification of sound, that projects noise beyond the lot line of the property from which the noise emanates and into any street or public place.”

Air horns would be covered under that broad language.

According to a recent CBC news report, the World Health Organization deems noise to be “an underestimated threat that can cause a number of short- and long-term health problems. Besides causing annoyance, research indicates the negative effects go further, including in the most extreme cases by damaging hearing. Excessive noise seriously harms human health and interferes with people's daily activities at school, at work, at home and during leisure time” and states that “it can disturb sleep, cause cardiovascular and psychophysiological effects, reduce performance and provoke annoyance responses and changes in social behaviour."

Conclusion:

Our original approach was to work with sport organizations to ask their fans to cease using air horns, but this has not been effective.

In order to effectively enforce this, a By-Law amendment is required to support the goal of helping citizens in residential areas live more harmoniously with the sporting and event spaces around them.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

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