

Motion – Councillor S. Devine – Ottawa’s Noise By-law and Consistency with NPC-300 Environmental Noise Guideline

Motion – S. Devine, conseiller – Règlement sur le bruit de la Ville d’Ottawa et conformité à la ligne directrice relative au bruit ambiant NPC-300

Committee Recommendation(s)

That Council direct staff to include a review of the Noise By-law, including any disparities with the recommendations of the NPC-300 guideline, as an item for consideration as part of the development of the By-law Review Work Plan to be approved by the next term of Council.

Recommandation(s) du Comité

Que le Conseil demande au personnel municipal d’inclure l’examen du *Règlement sur le bruit*, notamment de toute divergence par rapport aux recommandations de la ligne directrice NPC-300, à titre d’élément à considérer dans le cadre de l’élaboration du plan de travail pour l’examen des règlements municipaux, lequel doit être approuvé d’ici le prochain mandat du Conseil municipal.

Documentation/Documentation

1. Extract of the draft Minutes, Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee, April 16, 2026

Extrait de l’ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services de protection et de préparation aux situations d’urgence, le 16 avril 2026

2. Members’ Motion submitted to Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee, dated April 16, 2026 (ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0036)

Motion d’un membre soumise au Comité des services de protection et de préparation aux situations d’urgence daté le 16 avril 2026 (ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0036)

**Emergency Preparedness and
Protective Services Committee
Report 23
22 April 2026**

**2 Comité des services de protection et
de préparation aux situations
d'urgence
Rapport 23
Le 22 avril 2026**

**Extract of Draft Minutes 23
Emergency Preparedness and
Protective Services Committee
16 April 2026**

**Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal 22
Comité des services de protection et de
préparation aux situations d'urgence
Le 16 avril 2026**

Motion – Councillor S. Devine – Ottawa’s Noise By-law and Consistency with NPC-300
Environmental Noise Guideline

File No. ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0036 – City-wide

At the outset, Councillor Sean Devine introduced his motion, on behalf of Councillor Shawn Menard. Councillor Menard was in attendance and spoke to provide context for the Motion that was introduced by Councillor Devine as a Notice of Motion at the Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee meeting of Monday, March 23, 2026.

Mr. Ryan Perrault, General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services (EPS) Department, Mr. Roger Chapman, Director, By-Law and Regulatory Services, EPS, and Mr. Jake Gravelle, Associate Director, By-Law and Regulatory Services, EPS, were present to respond to questions.

The following members of the public spoke before the Committee and provided comments on the item:

- Caroline Richter
- Neil Pearson, on behalf of The Glebe Neighbourhood
- Jim Low
- Robert Brinker, Vice-Chair, Carlington Community Association
- Jeffery Brown.

Written correspondence was received from the following members of the public, and is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk:

- Neil Pearson, on behalf of The Glebe Neighbourhood
- Deborah Long
- J. Devine.

Following questions to the speakers and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee discussions, Motion No. EPPSC 2026-23-01 was put before the Committee and was ‘Carried’, as presented.

Motion

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa's By-law Review Work Plan identifies regulatory by-laws for review or development in each Term of Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 129 of the Municipal Act, 2001, a municipality may prohibit and regulate with respect to noise, vibration, odour and dust; and

WHEREAS the City's Noise By-law regulates noise in order to preserve, protect and promote public health, safety, welfare, and the peace and quiet enjoyment of property by residents of the City of Ottawa; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has published provincial environmental noise guidance, including Publication NPC 300 ("Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning"), respecting the control of noise emissions from stationary sources and related land use planning considerations; and

WHEREAS one stated purpose of NPC 300 is to provide sound level limits that may be incorporated into municipal noise control by-laws developed under the Municipal Act; and

WHEREAS NPC 300 distinguishes between daytime and nighttime assessment periods and recognizes that nighttime conditions are particularly sensitive for residents due to lower background sound environments and sleep related impacts; and

WHEREAS residents in neighbourhoods adjacent to newly built apartment buildings, including but not limited to 275 Carling Avenue (The Clemow in Ward 17) and 1354 Carling Avenue (The Talisman in Ward 16), have reported recurring seasonal rooftop mechanical and air conditioning noise that may be inconsistent with the recommendations of NPC 300, but that has not resulted in an actionable enforcement outcome under the City's current Noise By-law; and

WHEREAS similar concerns have been raised in Ward 9, including situations where residents of 330 Titan Private and 120 Grant Carman Drive report late night and overnight rooftop mechanical and refrigeration noise originating from a nearby commercial property, that may also be inconsistent with the recommendations of NPC 300, but that have likewise not resulted in an actionable enforcement outcome under the City's current Noise By-law; and

WHEREAS municipal noise by-laws are primarily designed as complaint driven enforcement instruments and, in practice, enforcement outcomes can depend on whether noise exceeds prescribed thresholds at the time and location of measurement, which may unintentionally create expectations among residents that

**by-law enforcement alone can resolve technical stationary source noise conflicts;
and**

WHEREAS NPC 300 emphasizes a proactive approach to minimizing conflicts between noise sensitive land uses and stationary noise sources at the earliest stages of land use planning and development approvals, suggesting that planning stage controls—such as equipment siting, noise studies, and mitigation measures secured through development approvals—may in some cases be more effective than after the fact enforcement alone;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff include a review of the Noise By-law, including any disparities with the recommendations of the NPC-300 guideline, as an item for consideration as part of the development of the By-law Review Work Plan to be approved by the next term of Council.

Carried