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Communication

CW(1) – April 1, 2025

Item No. Pres1



Supporting Residents and Contractors: Adjusting Noise By-law for a Balanced Approach in Quiet Zones

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Current state

- Schedule 2 of the Noise By-law permits property maintenance/repair activities Mon - Sat, starting at 7am, even in Quiet Zones (within 250m from senior homes)
- After the pandemic, more families begin their workdays later due to remote work, and seniors are sensitive to sudden yet loud noise levels in the neighbourhoods
- Families choose Quiet Zones to ensure quiet living conditions and eventually run into a legislative contradiction permitting loud rumbling sounds early on
- Noise is noise - whether coming from fireworks or unloading activities - and it lowers the quality of life in the City; leaf blowing at 7am is no different than fireworks
- In some cases, recurring property maintenance and contract work will force residents into arguments with contractors to change their operating schedules due to unbearable levels of noise emitted at an early hour
 - Notwithstanding the by-law, the conflicts will occur to remove the anxiety of being awakened by weekly loud banging/revving
- Noise related complaints put additional pressure on by-law officers to explain the dispute resolution processes or track the noise

Better state - achieved!

- I successfully mediated the maintenance/repair activities to begin at 9 am, Mon - Sat, which removed tensions in my Quiet Zone neighbourhood - change is possible!
 - 2 hours in the morning made the needed difference to let residents wake up and be on their days
 - Contractors could emit the necessary levels of noise to complete their work
 - Mediation (often initially met with resistance) included changing schedules for 100% of weekly disturbing noises: leaf blowing, moving garbage bins, garbage trucks to come after 9am
 - Mediation with other contractors to continue as necessary
- 100% positive result: Seniors, families and contractors are thankful to each other for balancing the contract work and everyday life in the neighbourhood - no more arguments!
- No need to engage the by-law officers to mediate weekly work due to noise levels

Proposal

- Pilot permitted property maintenance/repairs and loading activities in other Quiet Zones to begin at 9 AM
- Consider piloting a legislation of snow removal activities in Quiet Zones (private driveways only!) to happen at 7 am or later - currently unregulated even for private properties in Quiet Zones which entices further conflicts
 - Driveways are not used at 4 am by residents in Quiet Zones
- Consider the same schedule change pilot in Residential areas depending on the nature of complaints (property maintenance/repair work vs regular garbage removal)
 - New property developments are excluded, of course
- A change to make the City of Vaughan more attractive to live and work at



Thank you for supporting residents and contractors co-operating in a more balanced approach in Quiet Zones!