

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 24, 2024
To: Infrastructure, Transportation, Safety Sub-committee
From: Heather Denny, Events Coordinator
Report Number: ITS24-013
Attachments: None

Title: Request for an exemption to Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the Stratford Lantern Parade event

Objective: To consider a request from Playmakers! Theatre School from Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the event taking place on Saturday, October 19, 2024 between the hours of 2:00p.m. and 10:30p.m.

Background: Noise By-laws are designed to reduce and control both unnecessary and excessive sounds which can be a nuisance and generally degrade the quality and peacefulness of neighbourhoods. The Noise By-law identifies different rules and restrictions for noise based on four geographical areas throughout the city known as zones (Quiet zone, Residential zone, Commercial zone, Park zone).

The production, reproduction, or amplification of sound is one of the sounds regulated by Noise Control By-law 113-79. The nature of this event would include the aforementioned sounds.

Below are the schedules and clauses within in the Noise By-law applicable to this event that organizers are requesting an exemption to.

Schedule 2, Clause 2 – “The operation of any electronic device or 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.”

Prohibited all day Sundays and Statutory Holidays, and from 5pm of one day to 7am next day.

Schedule 2, Clause 4 – “The loading, unloading, delivering, packing, unpacking, or otherwise handling of any containers, products, materials or refuse

whatsoever, unless necessary for the maintenance of essential services or the moving of private household effects.”

Prohibited all day Sundays and Statutory Holidays, and from 7pm of one day to 7am next day.

Schedule 1, Clause 8 – “Unreasonable noise provision.”

Analysis: The event location is at the outdoor bandshell on Veterans Drive, on Tom Patterson Island, and some areas of parkland along Lakeside Drive. While the event location is within the Park Zone, the event borders a residential area and therefore event organizers are requesting an exemption to permit the amplification of sound in a Residential Zone.

The intent of this noise exemption request on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 8:00a.m. to 11:00p.m. in a Residential Zone, is to:

- Permit the operation of loudspeakers and amplification of sound for the duration of the event.
- Allow for certain noise during set up and take down.
- Support an exemption from the unreasonable noise provision for the duration of the event.

Notice of Intent to Neighbouring Residents

A notice of the noise exemption request was issued in the Town Crier and the event organizers hand delivered 195 notices to residents within 120m of the event location. The deadline for comments due back to staff and organizers was Friday, June 28, 2024. To date, no responses have been received.

Playmakers! Theatre School have hosted annual lantern events safely and successfully in the City of Stratford since 2017 however as amplified sound is now being incorporated an exemption to Noise Control By-law 113-79 is subject to Council review and final approval.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications because of this report.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as it is a community-based event featuring local talent which strengthens the culture of the community.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities, and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Travel and Transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.

Staff Recommendation: THAT direction be given on the noise exemption requested by the Playmakers! Theatre School for the Stratford Lantern Parade event on Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. from the following provisions:

- **Unreasonable Noise [Schedule 1 clause 8];**
- **The operation of loudspeakers and amplification of sound [Schedule 2 clause 2];**
- **Loading and unloading [Schedule 2 clause 4].**

Prepared by: Heather Denny, Events Coordinator

Recommended by: Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer