

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 30, 2024
To: Infrastructure, Transportation, Safety Sub-committee
From: Kirstin Riddell, Events Coordinator
Report Number: ITS24-019
Attachments: None

Title: Request an exemption to Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the Winter Wanderland event.

Objective: To consider an exemption request from Downtown Stratford BIA from Noise Control By-law 113-79. The event is taking place on December 1, 2024, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Background: Noise By-laws are designed to reduce and control both unnecessary and excessive sounds which can be a nuisance and 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 this type of sounds.

Exemptions from the Noise By-law are requested for the following clauses:

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 11pm of one day to 7am next day from Monday to Thursday, and from 12am of one day to 7am next day on Friday and Saturday.

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: This event will be in Market Square, and surrounding City Hall, like previous years. This event is taking place on Saturday, November 30, 2024, and Sunday, December 1, 2024, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. As amplified noise is permitted in commercial zones on Saturdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. the exemption to permit the amplification of sound in a Commercial Zone is for Sunday, December 1, 2024.

The intent of this noise exemption request 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 notices to residents within 120m of the event location. The deadline for comments due back to staff and organizers was Friday, October 4, 2024. To date, no responses have been received.

Downtown Stratford BIA have hosted annual Winter Wander-land events safely and successfully in the City of Stratford since 2016. However, as amplified sound is now expected, 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 festive activities to bring together people of all ages 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 Control By-law Exemption requested from the Downtown Stratford BIA for the Winter Wander-land event on Sunday, December 1, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 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:

Kirstin Riddell, Events Coordinator

Recommended by:

Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer