

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: March 11, 2025
To: Infrastructure, Transportation, Safety Sub-committee
From: Kirstin Riddell, Events Coordinator
Report Number: ITS25-006
Attachments: None

Title: Request for an Exemption to the Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the Caribbean and African Day Event

Objective: To consider a request from the Multicultural Association from Noise Control By-law 113-79 for the event taking place on May 25, 2025, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., including load-in and load-out times.

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 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 5:00 p.m. of one day to 7:00 a.m. the 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 7:00 p.m. of one day to 7:00 a.m. the next day.

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

Analysis: The event will be held in Market Square. As the event is taking place on a Sunday, event organizers are requesting an exemption to permit amplification of sound in a Commercial Zone.

The intent of this noise exemption request on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. in a Commercial 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 notices to residents within 120m of the event location. The deadline for comments due back to staff and organizers is Friday, March 21, 2025.

The Multicultural Association of Perth-Huron have hosted numerous events in the past in the City of Stratford. However, as this event is taking place on a Sunday with amplified sound, 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 people of all ages together, strengthening 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 Multicultural Association for the Caribbean and African Day event on Sunday, May 25, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. from the following provisions:

- **Prohibited all day Sundays and Statutory Holidays, and from 7:00 p.m. of one day to 7:00 a.m. the next day;**
- **Unreasonable noise provision [Schedule 1, Clause 8];**
- **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