

Information Session - Outdoor Commercial Patios

March 16, 2017 6:30 – 8:00 pm Hamilton City Hall – room 264

Staff:

R. Ustrzycki, Senior Project Manager, MLE
J. Hickey-Evans, Manager, Planning Policy and Zoning By-Law Reform
S. McKie, Senior Planner, Planning and Economic Development
J. Rutherford, Adjudicator

Appearances:

Herman Turkstra
Judy Marsales
Carol Hoblyn
John Winn
Kerry Jarvi
Suzy Ozer
Mark Stewart
David Cowan
Jeff Martin
Gabriel Nicholson
Madeline Wilson
Glen Brown

Regrets:

Mary Lawlor
Paven Bratch

SUMMARY

The purpose of the information meeting was communicated to all those in attendance at the commencement and during the meeting. Questions outside the broader application of the Pilot Project or changes to the Noise Control By-law; or, questions specifically targeting identifiable offenders, were not received or considered within the scope of this information meeting.

Staff presented a Power-Point presentation, explaining and outlining the essential elements of staff recommendations to Report PED1665(a), and responded to questions posed by the participants at the meeting. Based upon their personal knowledge, those attending the meeting shared their past frustrations with specific locations, and positive experiences with events providing live entertainment or playing recorded music.

There was suggestion that the decibel level for an exemption permit be lowered and measured at a different location. In contrast, others were in favour of the recommendation as contained in staff Report PED16155(a). Although varied, the commentaries were focused primarily upon the need for an effective Noise Control By-law and enforcement to gain public confidence in the pilot project. The following summary represents the major concerns and comments in terms of the recommended pilot project:

- The City needs an effective By-law and strong enforcement presence
- Additional enforcement staff is needed
- There has to be a diligent response to a complaint
- There should be a zero-tolerance approach to a contravention
- Officers need to have the proper training and device to measure the sound
- The Pilot Project should be carefully monitored/tracked for final analysis
- Public comment needs to be considered in an Exemption Permit application