



May 6, 2017

Mr. Jerrod Riley
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
jerrod.riley@ottawa.ca

Dear Mr. Riley,

The Glebe Community Association (GCA) is a volunteer, non-profit, membership-based and City-recognized organization advocating for a liveable, sustainable, diverse urban neighbourhood. The GCA informs, consults and engages with residents and other groups in the Glebe on issues of importance and promotes the interests of our community with all levels of government and other organizations. On behalf of the GCA, I am writing with regards to the City of Ottawa review of its noise by-law.

We read with interest the materials associated with the City's noise by-law review and proposed options and also attended one of the City-led consultations. Noise has been well-established as a health concern. The World Health Organization has linked noise to sleep disturbances, hypertension, heart disease and mental health problems. A number of the issues in the proposed revisions to the noise by-law are likely to have benefits to residents and serve to reduce noise. The GCA is supportive of many of these efforts and is disappointed that a proposed noise exemption for Lansdowne is bundled in with many other positive proposed changes. We protest lumping special events changes, which seem to favour relaxing the by-law regulations, in an omnibus noise by-law that seems to be generally tightening noise provisions.

The issue of noise at Lansdowne Park has been a matter of concern for the GCA since 2010 and persists as a significant "hot button" issue for the Community. As a result, the GCA wholeheartedly opposes any options related to the potential for increased noise at Lansdowne Park and respectfully requests that such an exemption be removed from the noise by-law review for the following reasons:

1. There are **considerable** differences between Lansdowne and the Canadian Tire Centre - both venues are specifically mentioned in the proposed option. Lansdowne is nestled in a residential neighbourhood, located on water which carries noise, and is an open air venue. As such, Lansdowne and the Canadian Tire Centre are not comparable and should not be treated as such.
2. The Lansdowne Park re-development has been an ongoing challenge within the Glebe. The development has resulted in challenges associated with traffic and considerable ongoing noise associated with the music played at all times of the day by restaurants and bars

located within the complex. That said, the inconveniences associated with the development have been largely accepted by the neighbourhood. It is well understood that such a large event venue comes with periodic exemptions, but those should indeed be the exception and not the rule.

3. As the City continues to expand its 'festival city' reputation and widely promotes the use of Lansdowne Park for events, it is particularly critical that the controls to minimize noise from the venue. We believe this to be imperative for noise associated with special events and not. The venue is surrounded by family dwellings, seniors' residences, and condominiums and these private residences merit protection from public noise, particularly at late hours.
4. At the April 26, 2017 City consultation, City officials spoke to data that for the most part special event permits (and related exemptions) are approved by Councillors, but that is not always the case at Lansdowne. It is the view of the GCA that these data suggest that the existing system of Councillor approval is working and that rather than offering a blanket exemption to events at Lansdowne that is a strong argument for the Councillor maintaining a decision-making role given his understanding of the local issues.

The GCA would like to voice its appreciation for noise enforcement efforts and its support for the ongoing actions, regardless of hour or event, taken to reduce noise whenever possible at the venue. Further, we would request that any proposed changes to the current application of the city's noise by-law at Lansdowne be subjected to robust community consultation with Glebe residents. The GCA would be pleased to work with the City to facilitate such efforts.

We do hope that the staff report and the Community and Protective Services Committee will agree that Lansdowne and its surrounding residents need protection from increased noise, not exemptions that normalize noise in our neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Sarah Viehbeck
Chair, GCA Health and Social Services Committee

cc. Councillor David Chernushenko
cc. City of Ottawa Community and Protective Services Committee members (Councillors Deans, Brockington, Mitic, Qadri, Chiarelli, Egli, Nussbaum, Fleury, Darouze, Qaqish)
cc. Mayor Jim Watson