

TO: ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1992 MAY 08  
FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION NOISE ACTIVITY ON SUNDAYS  
PURPOSE: TO INFORM THE COUNCIL ON THE APPLICABLE NOISE BYLAW REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE ACTIVITY AND RESPOND TO THE PROPOSAL OF PROHIBITING CONSTRUCTION WORK ON SUNDAYS.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:

Ms. Gisela Wilhelm, 4432 Irmin Street, Burnaby, B.C.,  
V5J 1X7.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

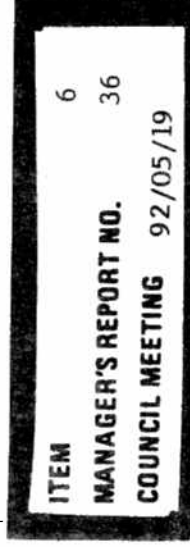
During the regular Council Meeting on 1992 May 04, correspondence was received from Ms. Gisela Wilhelm requiring prohibition of construction work on Sundays. Upon reviewing the correspondence, Council directed staff to prepare a response on the subject issue.

The following report provides information on the applicable Noise Bylaw requirements related to construction noise activity and responds to the proposal of prohibiting construction activity on Sundays.

2.0 BURNABY NOISE OR SOUND ABATEMENT BYLAW (NO. 7332)  
REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE:

The construction noise activity is regulated by Section 15 of the Burnaby Noise or Sound Abatement Bylaw No. 7332. This section limits noise from construction sites which includes demolition/construction of buildings/structures, excavation and filling in of land between the hours of 07:00 h. and 22:00 h. on weekdays and Saturday, and between the hours of 09:00 h. and 22:00 h. on Sundays unless specifically provided with exemptions.

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3.0 PROPOSAL OF PROHIBITING CONSTRUCTION WORK ON SUNDAYS:

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In reviewing the total number of complaints received in 1991 relating specifically to early morning or late night construction noise, it has been noted that less than twenty percent of construction noise complaints are attributed to construction activity during weekends.

In addition, it is staff's opinion that prohibition of construction work on Sundays could have a serious impact on the repairs or construction by homeowners and construction trades particularly on costs under existing contracts.

As such, it is staff's recommendation that the proposal of prohibiting construction work on Sundays not be accepted.

However, in recognition to the complaints made by Ms. Wilhelm in her correspondence regarding construction noise from specific sites in her neighbourhood, staff have conducted an investigation and have informed the developer and contractor at each site, both verbally and in writing, on the requirement of Burnaby Noise or Sound Abatement Bylaw.

Ms. Wilhelm has been informed on the actions taken and has also been made aware on procedures to contact staff after hours in an event that the construction work is carried on past the allowable times noted in the Noise Bylaw.

4.0 CONCLUSION:

The correspondence from Ms. Gisela Wilhelm requiring prohibition of construction work on Sundays was reviewed by the Environmental Health Services staff.

In view of the fact that the number of complaints regarding construction noise activity on Sundays are not significant and additionally the prohibition of construction work on Sundays would impact on the repair and construction work by homeowners and the construction trades, particularly on costs under existing contracts, staff recommend against the adoption of the proposal of prohibiting construction work on Sundays.

However staff have investigated and followed up on the construction sites noted in Ms. Wilhelm's correspondence and Ms. Wilhelm has been informed regarding the investigations.

K.C. Johnston, C.P.H.I.(C)  
ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DD/KCJ/g1

cc: Medical Health Officer  
Director Administrative &  
Community Services  
Municipal Solicitor