

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CouncilAgenda](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [External Email] Council Inquiry (Related to initial February communication)  
**Date:** Friday, December 13, 2024 5:35:26 PM

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Dear Orangeville Council,

I am writing to reiterate concerns I raised approximately a year ago regarding noise and disturbances in downtown Orangeville, particularly from businesses such as **The Blackwolf Smokehouse** and the **Academy of Performing Arts**. Despite the updated by-law (2024-023), the issues persist, significantly affecting the quality of life for residents in this mixed-use area.

### **Persistent Violations**

#### **1. Noise and Disturbances:**

- The Blackwolf Smokehouse frequently operates beyond reasonable hours. Employees and patrons often engage in loud music, drinking, and smoking inside the premises well into the AM during weekdays.
- Similar disruptions occur at the Dance Academy, where renovations have exacerbated noise spillage due to poor soundproofing, affecting tenants above.

#### **2. Smoking Indoors and Prohibited Areas:**

- Smoking inside The Blackwolf Smokehouse continues unabated, with smoke infiltrating the residential units above.
- Patrons regularly smoke outside the bar in violation of the **9-meter smoke-free rule**, with smoke reaching upper units and creating health risks.

#### **3. Over-Serving of Alcohol:**

- The bar's over-serving of alcohol has led to altercations, harassment, and even drunk driving. Police are called to this location almost monthly. This issue has persisted for years, with no meaningful resolution.

#### **4. Community Engagement and Accountability:**

- Despite contacting both businesses multiple times, there has been no action or acknowledgment of these concerns. I have since escalated the matter by filing complaints with both **Public Health Ontario** and the **AGCO** (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario).
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## **Impact on Residents and Heritage Properties**

- These activities disrupt the peace and safety of residents in the apartments above these businesses, exposing them to health hazards and noise disturbances.
  - The historic nature of the building at 133/139 Broadway is at risk due to the negligence of the businesses operating within it.
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## **Historic Building Concerns**

**The building at 139 Broadway is a heritage property, and as such, it is subject to stricter oversight regarding structural changes. However, the renovations conducted by the Dance Academy in 2022 appear to have been carried out without sufficient consideration for the building's historical significance or compliance with soundproofing standards.**

### 1. Unregulated Renovations:

- In 2022, the Dance Academy added a residential unit to the loft without soundproofing measures, creating significant disruptions for neighboring units.
- Renovations that altered the structure of this historic building were done without sufficient communication about obtaining appropriate permits, as required for heritage properties.

### 2. Disruption to Neighbors:

- The lack of soundproofing has led to excessive noise, particularly foot traffic and loud music, which occurs almost all day into the evening 4-5 days a week.
- Noise frequently spills over into residential spaces on either side of the newly added unit, severely affecting tenants' ability to enjoy their homes.

## **Proposed Actions**

To address these issues effectively, I urge the Council to:

### 1. **Enforce By-Law 2024-023:**

- Increase inspections and penalties for businesses violating noise and smoking regulations.

### 2. **Mandate Structural Soundproofing:**

- Require renovations to include adequate soundproofing, particularly for businesses operating in heritage buildings.

### 3. **Enhance Communication and Transparency:**

- Establish a formal channel for residents to report violations, with clear follow-up actions and updates from the Council.

### 4. **Revise Licensing Requirements:**

- Work with the AGCO to review liquor license compliance and address over-serving practices.

### 5. **Enforce Renovation Compliance for Heritage Properties:**

- Review permits for the 2022 renovations to ensure compliance with regulations for historic properties.

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## **Conclusion**

The ongoing disruptions and lack of regulation at 133/139 Broadway underscore the need for stricter enforcement and oversight of downtown businesses, particularly those operating within heritage properties. I urge the Council to take swift and decisive action to protect the well-being of residents, preserve the historic integrity of the building, and enforce compliance with local by-laws.

Thank you for your attention to these pressing issues.

Sincerely,  
Luke Bilkey  
[REDACTED] Broadway

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**From:** Luke Bilkey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** February 21, 2024 9:57 PM  
**To:** councilagenda@orangeville.ca <councilagenda@orangeville.ca>  
**Subject:** Council Inquiry

Dear Orangeville Council,

This letter is written anonymously by a group of concerned citizens of Orangeville, motivated by the collective need to address an issue that has not only persisted but worsened over time—noise disruptions within our downtown area. Our anonymity stems from the desire for this message to represent a unified voice of the community rather than individual grievances.

It has come to our attention, repeatedly, that the noise disruptions downtown are on the rise, an issue that has previously been brought to the council's notice but appears to have been swiftly ignored. The summer months bring an intolerable increase in noise from modified vehicles and motorbikes, which not only disrupts foot traffic and businesses but also severely affects the quality of life of residents residing along Broadway and its vicinity.

Furthermore, the disturbances caused by certain bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, including arts and dance studios like the Dance Academy, have significantly intensified. Despite some operating until past 1-2 AM and attracting behaviors that lead to altercations and crimes, there has been a notable lack of action to address these concerns. The renovations made by establishments such as the Dance Academy to heritage buildings, which compromised noise insulation, have further exacerbated the situation, creating unrest among both businesses and residents alike.

The lack of stringent noise by-law guidelines has left our community vulnerable, with residents feeling helpless against the invasion of their peace and the enjoyment of their homes. Therefore, we urge the Orangeville Council to take immediate action:

1. **Review and Update Noise By-Laws:** Our current noise by-laws are outdated and inadequate to address the evolving needs of our community. We need comprehensive updates that consider all sources of noise disruptions, including those from vehicles and entertainment venues.
2. **Implement Stricter Regulations for Businesses and Vehicles:** There must be enforceable limits on operating hours for businesses and noise levels for vehicles, ensuring that the community's peace is not compromised.
3. **Promote Structural Soundproofing:** Encourage or mandate businesses undergoing renovations to incorporate soundproofing measures that adequately prevent noise spillage.
4. **Foster Community Engagement:** Establish a platform for ongoing dialogue between businesses, residents, and the council to collaboratively find workable solutions to these noise issues.
5. **Address Ignored Complaints:** Acknowledge and act upon the concerns that have been previously brought to the council's attention but ignored, particularly the issue of noise from modified vehicles and motorbikes.

The escalation of noise disruptions in downtown Orangeville is a pressing issue that affects us all. It is crucial for the council to not only recognize but also take decisive steps to address these concerns to protect the sanctity, security, and enjoyment of our community spaces. We believe that through collaborative efforts and updated regulations, we can achieve a balance that respects both the vibrancy of our town and the rights of its residents to a peaceful living environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Continuing from our previous points of concern and the urgent need for action, we propose the following amendments to the existing noise bylaw, aiming for a comprehensive and efficient update that aligns with the community's needs:

**1. Establish Clear Noise Limits:**

- **Residential Areas:** Specify decibel limits for different times of the day (e.g., daytime, evening, and night) to protect residents' peace.
- **Commercial and Entertainment Zones:** Set higher but reasonable noise limits for these

areas, considering their nature, but enforce strict compliance after certain hours to minimize disruptions to nearby residents.

#### ### 2. **\*\*Regulate Vehicle Noise:\*\***

- **\*\*Modified Vehicles and Motorbikes:\*\*** Introduce specific decibel limits for vehicle exhaust systems and prohibit modifications that exceed these limits. Implement regular checks and fines for violations to deter excessive noise from modified vehicles and motorbikes.

#### ### 3. **\*\*Operational Hours for Businesses:\*\***

- **\*\*Restrict Operating Hours:\*\*** Enforce stricter operating hours for bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, especially those in mixed-use areas close to residential units. Consider allowing extensions only with proven soundproofing measures and community consent.

#### ### 4. **\*\*Mandatory Soundproofing for Renovations:\*\***

- **\*\*Building Codes:\*\*** Amend the bylaw to require soundproofing as part of renovation permits for businesses in heritage buildings or those located in mixed-use areas. This will ensure that renovations do not compromise the existing structure's noise insulation capabilities.

#### ### 5. **\*\*Community Engagement and Feedback Mechanism:\*\***

- **\*\*Public Consultation:\*\*** Before finalizing the amendments, conduct public consultations to gather input from both residents and business owners. This will help ensure that the updated bylaw is balanced and reflective of the community's diverse needs.

- **\*\*Feedback System:\*\*** Establish an accessible and responsive system for reporting noise complaints, with clear procedures for follow-up and enforcement. This will empower residents and ensure ongoing compliance with the bylaw.

#### ### 6. **\*\*Enforcement and Penalties:\*\***

- **\*\*Clear Enforcement Strategies:\*\*** Detail the roles and responsibilities of local authorities in monitoring and enforcing the bylaw, including regular patrols in known hotspots.

- **\*\*Penalty Structure:\*\*** Implement a tiered penalty structure for violations, ranging from fines to potential suspension of business licenses for repeat offenders, to ensure compliance.

#### ### 7. **\*\*Periodic Review and Adjustment:\*\***

- **\*\*Adaptability:\*\*** Include provisions for the periodic review of the bylaw (e.g., every 2-3 years) to adjust noise limits, enforcement strategies, and other relevant aspects based on community feedback and development changes.

By integrating these proposed changes into the existing bylaw, we can create a more livable, peaceful, and enjoyable environment for all members of the Orangeville community. We trust that the council will consider these suggestions with the seriousness they warrant and act swiftly to update the noise bylaw accordingly.

We look forward to seeing positive changes and are willing to engage in further discussions or

provide additional input as needed to facilitate this process.

In addition to the pressing issue of noise disruptions previously detailed, we must also bring to the council's attention the growing concerns regarding pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the intersection of 3rd Street and 4th Avenue. This area has become a significant point of contention within our community, marked by frequent traffic jams and problems that jeopardize the safety and ease of crossing for pedestrians.

The intersection is notorious for its heightened and often aggressive reactivity from drivers, complicating the already challenging task of navigating this busy area. Pedestrians find it increasingly difficult to cross safely, as drivers either fail to yield the right of way or cause unnecessary hold-ups, escalating tensions and risking public safety. This situation not only undermines the pedestrian-friendly vision our community aspires to but also reflects poorly on our collective commitment to ensuring a safe, accessible, and harmonious urban environment.

To address these concerns effectively and to enhance the safety and efficiency of this intersection, we strongly suggest the addition of a pair of traffic lights. Implementing a controlled crossing point would significantly mitigate the risks currently faced by pedestrians and help in managing vehicle flow, thereby reducing the frequency of traffic jams and aggressive driver behavior. This solution would not only improve safety for all road users but also contribute positively to the overall quality of life in our community by fostering a more orderly and respectful sharing of our streets.

We trust that the council will consider this proposal with the seriousness it deserves, recognizing the urgent need to act for the safety and well-being of our community members. Such an initiative would undoubtedly reflect the council's proactive approach to addressing the immediate concerns of its residents, further demonstrating a commitment to making Orangeville a safer, more inclusive, and harmonious place to live and work.

Thank you for your continued attention to these matters. We look forward to seeing the positive changes that your actions will bring to our community.

**Best regards,**  
*Luke Bilkey*