

## Marius Miklea

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**From:** Brian Buchholz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** corporate  
**Subject:** Noise By-Law Changes Contrary to Community Feedback

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RMOW Mayor & Council (Art, Jack, John, Cathy, Ralph.) Wow!

A thumbs down to Council for the Master Class on municipal civics last week. Councillors and staff all but ignoring the public's feedback and dismissing other municipalities' standards and then extending the RMOW's hours for construction noise is a low point for this council term.

Construction noise hours are extended, days are extended, Sunday construction is introduced all despite the majority comment from the public in opposition to same. It would have helped if a breakdown of public comment had been provided - although it was commented that the majority of responses asked for shorter and not longer hours!

My jaw dropped as councillor after councillor put forward their respective rationales (sic) for extending construction noise hours.

- *we have winter*
- *we need to fast track employee housing projects*
- *builders are working under unduly difficult conditions (supply chain?)*
- *COVID*
- *undue hardships contractors would face if hours are not extended*

And what was the point origin for staff and Council for initiating these changes for the poor orphans of the construction - industrial complex? It was a letter submitted last year by the lobbying arm of the Canadian Home Builders Association. This political lobbying effort was dedicated to one thing and one thing only - "...how can we extend our membership's noise making and construction timeline envelope whilst costing us nothing and returning 'zero benefit' to the neighbourhoods'?"

Congratulations! They did their job to perfection. They brought forward a political, profit driven agenda item that was self centered and profit driven for their industry, manufacturers, designers, architects and developers. In reviewing the materials and listening to councillors, any concern for the tax paying, residential community members was minimized, ignored or conspicuously absent in debate (sic).

Councillor Grills dismissively brushed aside homeowners, visitor and tourists occupancy concerns suggesting that construction noise was nothing other than a casual and passing concern. The RMOW's own statistics reported a substantive increase in public noise complaints last year (COVID's fault again said one councillor (CJ)) Let them eat cake!

I was gob-smacked by the stunning staff revelation that nearly 70% of surveyed Greater Vancouver municipalities enforce tighter more resident friendly construction noise rules. Many do not permit construction

on Sundays & or Stats! Those councils weighed community wellness over the competing pressure and selfishness of the construction industry.

The alleged need for this extension of the already generous hours falls outside the realm of common sense and the Whistler reality.

The suggestion that the extension of hours will somehow benefit the building and completion of *employee housing projects* is spurious at best and political bafflegab at worst. What a disingenuous and self-serving argument intended to obfuscate and confuse the issue whilst tugging at the heart strings of voters. That now, this noise by-law extension will in some fantasy world expedite employee units availability. No more babies shivering in the cruel, cruel winter cold... Lies, damn lies and statistics my accountant brother once taught me...

After 35 years of attending council meetings it's hard to remember a more puzzling and disappointing decision by local government. As I said, this week I've learned a deflating lesson in civics, the power of industry lobbying and the vagaries of Council's support for neighbourhoods and community wellness.

*"Take municipal sponsored public survey results, weigh existing municipal noise by-law standards, staff alternatives and cram them in the ash can. Then add in the lobbying efforts of a multi-billion dollar industry group (most or many not Whistler based), downplay and trivialize the impact of construction noise on neighbourhoods. Finally ignore public feedback, downplay the degree of the changes and then regurgitate the reported hardships from that industry lobbying group's membership profess. Stir and make laws accordingly."*

To be clear - I am so very, very disappointed in Council & staff's decision and amended by-law.

*B.K. Buchholz  
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