

Agenda Including Addeds

Community and Protective Services Committee

13th Meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee

August 15, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chambers - Please check the City website for additional meeting detail information. Meetings can be viewed via live-streaming on YouTube and the City Website.

The City of London is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (AUh-nish-in-ah-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ah-pay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run).

We honour and respect the history, languages and culture of the diverse Indigenous people who call this territory home. The City of London is currently home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit today.

As representatives of the people of the City of London, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work and live in this territory.

Members

Councillors E. Pelozza (Chair), S. Stevenson, J. Pribil, C. Rahman, D. Ferreira, Mayor J. Morgan

The City of London is committed to making every effort to provide alternate formats and communication supports for meetings upon request. To make a request specific to this meeting, please contact CPSC@london.ca or 519-661-2489 ext. 2425.

Pages

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

2. Consent

2.1 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee 5

2.2 Winter Response Program Outcome Report Year-over-Year Comparison 19

3. Scheduled Items

3.1 Item not to be heard before 4:05 PM - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING - Fireworks By-law Options 25

a. REQUEST FOR DELEGATION STATUS - V.R. Anber - RESUBMITTED 28

(Note: this request for delegation status was deferred to the public participation meeting at the June 13, 2023 Community and Protective Services Committee.)

a. Communication 31

(Note: a petition signed by approximately 676 individuals is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

b. REQUEST FOR DELEGATION STATUS - A. Kanji - RESUBMITTED 36

(Note: this request for delegation status was deferred to the public participation meeting at the June 13, 2023 Community and Protective Services Committee.)

c. S. Sinnamon 37

d.	L. Green	39
e.	K. Rhodes	42
f.	T. Miller	43
g.	M. Robinson	44
h.	T. McMullen	45
i.	L. Gebhardt	46
j.	G. Rhodes	48
k.	J. McCall	49
l.	K. Godin	50
m.	S. Ross	51
n.	M. Hulet	52
o.	S. Deebrah	54
p.	S. Liggett	57
q.	B. McClement	58
r.	C. Poirier	59
s.	K. Patpatia	62
t.	S. Alexopoulos	63
u.	C. Wilson	64
v.	J. First	65
w.	N. and S. Tirolese	67
x.	M. Luce	69
y.	B. Amendola	73
z.	B. Samuels, Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee	79
aa.	L. Macklem	84
ab.	P. Reid	86
ac.	B. Hampton	87
ad.	<i>(ADDED) S. Olivastri</i>	89
ae.	<i>(ADDED) N. Hans</i>	90
af.	<i>(ADDED) K. Wood</i>	91

<i>ag.</i>	<i>(ADDED) D. Devine</i>	
<i>ah.</i>	<i>(ADDED) V. Varapavan, Srishti Foundation</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>ai.</i>	<i>(ADDED) Tatvamasi London</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>aj.</i>	<i>(ADDED) S. Varapavan, Chinmaya Mission London</i>	<i>97</i>
<i>ak.</i>	<i>(ADDED) S. Richards</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>al.</i>	<i>(ADDED) S. Crane</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>am.</i>	<i>(ADDED) R. St. Pierre</i>	<i>101</i>
<i>an.</i>	<i>(ADDED) M. Hertz</i>	<i>102</i>
<i>ao.</i>	<i>(ADDED) L. Miller</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>ap.</i>	<i>(ADDED) J. Sayles</i>	<i>108</i>
<i>aq.</i>	<i>(ADDED) L. Hemming</i>	<i>110</i>
<i>ar.</i>	<i>(ADDED) J. Tennant</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>as.</i>	<i>(ADDED) J. Orchard</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>at.</i>	<i>(ADDED) E. Schwob</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>au.</i>	<i>(ADDED) D. Prout</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>av.</i>	<i>(ADDED) D. Heap and S. Kelly</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>aw.</i>	<i>(ADDED) C. Kuijpers</i>	<i>117</i>
<i>ax.</i>	<i>(ADDED) C. Healy</i>	<i>118</i>
<i>ay.</i>	<i>(ADDED) C. Helka</i>	<i>120</i>
<i>az.</i>	<i>(ADDED) Vishwa Hindu Parishad</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>ba.</i>	<i>(ADDED) Hindu Legacy Group</i>	<i>123</i>
	<i>(Note: a petition signed by approximately 920 individuals is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)</i>	
<i>bb.</i>	<i>(ADDED) G. Mandal</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>bc.</i>	<i>(ADDED) J. Jacobson</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>bd.</i>	<i>(ADDED) D. Ronson</i>	
	<i>a. Communication</i>	<i>129</i>
	<i>b. D. Ronson, Quiet Fireworks for London, Ontario</i>	<i>150</i>

(Note: a petition signed by approximately 3197 individuals is on file in the City Clerk's Office; it being noted that approximately 872 of the above-noted signatures are from outside of London, Ontario.)

4. Items for Direction

4.1 Inter Faith Homes (London) Transition Strategy: Appointment of London-Middlesex Community Housing

154

5. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

6. Adjournment

Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

Report

8th Meeting of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee
August 3, 2023

Attendance W. Brown (Chair), M. Blosch, A. Hames, G. Leckie, S. Ryall and
K. Mason (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: K. Coulter, H. Duhamel, N. Karsch, M. Toplack

ALSO PRESENT: W. Jeffery, M. McBride, O. Katolyk, J.
Stanford, B. Westlake-Power

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM, it being noted that
W. Brown, A. Hames and G. Leckie were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 7th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 7th Report of the Animal Welfare Community
Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on July 6, 2023, was received.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution - 7th Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council Resolution adopted at its
meeting held on July 25, 2023, with respect to the 7th Report of the
Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

None.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Green Week Collection - J. Stanford

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory
Committee (AWCAC) held a general discussion with respect to Green
Week Collection; it being further noted that the AWCAC will bring this
matter forward to a future sub-committee meeting for further review.

5.2 Draft Recommendation from the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee - City of London Consideration of Options with Regards to the Sale of Fireworks Displays

That, based on the attached Sub-Committee report, the following actions
be taken with respect to the fireworks by-law review:

- a) the Municipal Council BE ADVISED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) supports Option B as outlined in the June 13, 2023, staff report on Fireworks By-Law Options; and,
- b) this recommendation BE FORWARDED to the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting being held on August 15, 2023, for consideration.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee Submission on the Fireworks By-Law Review

August 3, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

The Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) recommends that City Council adopt **OPTION B** as outlined in the June 13, 2023 staff report on Fireworks By-Law Options. Option B would restrict the use of all consumer (backyard) fireworks, restrict the sale of consumer fireworks in London, increase the current fines, and reduce adverse impacts to wildlife and companion animals.

Additionally, to mitigate the disturbances to companion animals and wildlife, the AWCAC recommends:

- (1) Restrict the locations of permitted display fireworks (avoid environmentally sensitive areas, known nesting sites and wildlife habitat), and
- (2) Set a maximum length of time of permitted display fireworks (10 minutes), and
- (3) Require notice of a fireworks display to the surrounding community, and
- (4) Limit the number of holidays and type of events when display fireworks are allowed by permit, and
- (5) Promote alternatives to fireworks, such as light shows and celebratory events/activities, by adopting a strategic plan that provides incentives to event organizers who choose safer alternatives. Examples are reduced permit fees, allocation of funds, or public recognition for their animal and environmentally-friendly choice.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The city staff report summarized the results of a survey of London residents. In addition to concerns about the environment, noise, safety and enforcement, a substantial majority (65%) of respondents were concerned about the impacts of fireworks on pets and wildlife. This concern is not misplaced. The negative impact of fireworks on animals is well documented.

Other municipalities are looking to ban or restrict the sale of fireworks due to public outcry. The Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee's research found that toxic heavy metal chemical traces are left by spent fireworks on ground surfaces and waterways where they can be consumed by both wildlife and domestic animals. That Committee also learned that the City of Brampton's fireworks by-law was flawed and needed to be amended because an officer could not issue a second ticket (fine) within the same 24-hour period and was not authorized to confiscate personal fireworks. Their report is attached at the end of this report.

AWCAC member Dr. Kendra Coulter, Ph.D. has published her research on this issue. *The Devastating Effects of Fireworks on Pets and Wildlife* can be found at <https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/the-devastating-effects-of-fireworks-on-pets-and-wildlife/>

Stating that “harm is nothing to celebrate”, she points out that cats and dogs experience sounds at far greater intensity than humans, and horses have an innate fear response that can take over when they hear fireworks. The result is that these animals can bolt and get lost, hit by a car, or suffer injury.

Restricting the sale and use of consumer fireworks is the only way to protect pets and reduce harm to wildlife. Animal welfare organizations routinely advise people to keep dogs and cats indoors during fireworks displays. However, this type of proactive response is only possible when people have notice of a fireworks display. It is impossible to take preventative action when fireworks are set off in a backyard without warning. Further, even inside their home, companion animals continue to suffer intense fear and anxiety regardless of attempts to keep them calm.

Measures to mitigate the impact of permitted fireworks displays must also be taken, and must reflect London’s progressive Humane Urban Wildlife Policy and section 2.4 of the Strategic Plan as it relates to companion animals and wildlife.

Debra Spilar, Director/Custodian at Procyon Wildlife, a rehabilitation and education centre in Ontario, has assisted AWCAC in understanding the impacts of fireworks on wildlife. She provided us with information, including photos of their posters, and noted that their admissions and phone calls consistently go up in the days after a fireworks display. Gail Lenters, Authorized Wildlife Custodian at Shades of Hope, a wildlife refuge in Ontario, has also stated that they experience an increase in intake after fireworks, specifically displaced babies and collision traumas on adult animals.

The sudden noise and flashing lights of fireworks will trigger the fight-or-flight response in wildlife like birds, squirrels, skunks, raccoons, frogs and fish. The result will be terrified animals fleeing from trees and ponds. When this happens, the animals may be injured, killed, or not return, and animal babies in nests and burrows can be abandoned and left to die of dehydration and starvation. Rabbits and deer can die just from the stress and anxiety of the noise. Fish and other animals can perish after ingesting fireworks debris. Particles can fall at the explosion site or be blown by the wind to a distant location.

By implementing these strategies, the City will protect animals’ well-being, shift the focus toward safer, more environmentally-friendly alternatives to fireworks, and promote a responsible and sustainable approach to celebrating holidays.

APPENDIX A – City of London policies that support the AWCAC recommendation.

APPENDIX B – Photos of informational posters.

APPENDIX C – Oshawa Animal Care Committee report.

APPENDIX A

CITY POLICIES THAT SUPPORT THE AWCAC RECOMMENDATION:

- Strategic Plan

Wellbeing and Safety 2.4

London continues its efforts to promote animal welfare including companion pets and wild animals.

- Humane Urban Wildlife Conflict Policy

The City is committed to upholding high standards of animal welfare, including the humane treatment of wildlife. The City will strive to not interfere with wildlife and their natural processes where possible; and will strive to implement proactive and preventative measures in order to promote coexistence, and to prevent potential conflicts where possible.

From time to time, conflict between humans and wild animals arise within the City of London on City owned lands and the City will be compelled to act to protect property, human health and safety. In these circumstances, the City will strive to protect the welfare of wild animals by using humane solutions to resolve conflicts. To achieve this, the City will make all reasonable efforts to avoid displacing, injuring or killing wild animals. Lethal measures will only be used as a last resort and will employ the most humane methods available.

APPENDIX B

Photo provided by PROCYON WILDLIFE:

Your dog isn't the only
one upset by fireworks.



The panic brought on by fireworks can cause wildlife moms to abandon their babies and be too disoriented to find their way home.

Squirrels, small mammals, birds and butterflies have been known to exhibit detrimental, even life threatening behavior as a result of fireworks, while waterbirds and fish perish after ingesting fireworks' debris.

This summer, celebrate in a way that does no harm.

Celebrate without fireworks.

Photo provided by PROCYON WILDLIFE:

Fireworks
explode like magnified gunfire in the exquisitely sensitive ears of all creatures.

-  **Bees** become so disoriented they don't go back to their hives
-  **Birds** have panic attacks at night, causing mass deaths
-  **Wild animals** raising babies abandon their dens in fear
-  **Fish & other animals** perish after ingesting firework debris
-  **Companion animals** have anxiety & panic attacks
-  **Humans** have PTSD

#SilentFireworks

THE FOREVER DOG



APPENDIX C

The following report, including the list of public surveys, links to other municipal by-laws, and extracts from scientific research papers, was prepared by the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee.

Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee Review and Recommendation to Council to Further Regulate the City of Oshawa Fireworks By-law

Purpose

To regulate the Sale, Purchase, Possession and Discharge of consumer grade fireworks while also regulating both the number of permitted licensed events and locations of professionally organized firework displays and to increase the MLE fines schedule.

City of Oshawa (Fireworks By-law)

As amended by By-law 96-2019; By-law 36-201; By-law 59-2014; By-law 49-2021

https://www.oshawa.ca/en/Document-Feeds/General-By-Laws/Fireworks_By-law_59-2014.pdf

People, Animals, the Environment and Fireworks....

Much to their credit and vision, the Town of Caledon and the City of Brampton banned the sale, purchase, possession, and discharge of fireworks last year (2022). As with the recent recommendation contained in the Town of Whitby staff report (FES 04-23), the recommended exception is a professionally organized event where the hosts will continue to apply for a license to host such an event.

The City of Brampton further designates specific locations where such professionally hosted events may be shown.

However, the City of Brampton discovered a flaw in their recent personal firework regulation provisions. As such it was discovered that an attending by-law officer could ticket (fine) an individual for possession of fireworks or discharge of, however, that same individual could then discharge to remaining fireworks in his/her possession.

Two factors that were identified:

- a) The by-law officer could not issue a second ticket (fine) within the same twenty-four-hour period.
- b) The lack of a provision that authorized the by-law officer to confiscate the personal fireworks.

Subsequently, an amendment was added to permit the confiscation of personal fireworks.

As such, this amendment now denies the individual from subsequently discharging personal consumer fireworks.

Public surveys conducted for both the Town of Caledon and City of Brampton revealed a considerable concern for animal wellness and the negative effects that fireworks cause for them and their owners.

1. Fireworks greatly disrupt the social fabric by interfering with the right of a property owner or tenant to enjoy his or her property without interference. Disruption of quiet enjoyment may constitute a legal nuisance.

2. The discharge of fireworks is documented to negatively effect autistic children and adults and those experiencing PTS. They can also negatively affect and scare domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife, notably birds during nesting season, where terrified birds can abandon their nests.

3. There is also the toxic heavy metal chemical traces left by spent fireworks where they lay polluting our ground surfaces and waterways and that can be consumed by both wildlife and domestic animals before being detected (if located) and removed. Chemical components in any variation and amount are as follows, aluminum, barium, copper, strontium, antimony, lead, magnesium, and potassium. SO₂, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), nitric oxide, PM₁₀, total suspended particulate (TSP) matter, PM₁, PM₂, PM_{2.5}, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene-volatile aromatic compounds (BTEX), perchlorate, and chloride. As children regularly attend firework shows it must be noted that they are particularly susceptible due to a higher respiratory rate and correspondingly are likely to inhale greater quantities of these toxic pollutants. While we have always been accustomed to the use of fireworks as a celebratory medium, we have nonetheless experienced great strides in the science and resulting understanding of our environment that have enabled changing attitudes for the better and the enactment of progressive regulatory provisions.

4. Pose a significant fire hazard to land and buildings that can pose a corresponding risk to both humans and animals especially during periods of heat and dry weather that add to municipal emergency services callouts and associated costs.

5. As noted in the Town of Whitby report, effective enforcement invariably poses a significant challenge for any municipality whereas by the time By-law officers respond to a complaint the discharge of fireworks is over. The City of Toronto has also recognized effective enforcement as a perennial problem.

- 6 Past commentary from a few stakeholders has defended the current status quo by supporting the merchants need to 'make a little money' or the need for 'families to have a little fun' by setting off fireworks from their respective backyards. However, when the full consequences of such activities to humans and animals alike are examined more closely it becomes clear that there are broad social concerns relating to health and well-being to permit the continuance of using personal fireworks or any grade of fireworks whatsoever, anywhere.

7. On a positive note, there are alternatives to such harm and disruption such as public light and laser shows, and multi-synchronized illuminated drone shows at approved locations that can be as visually entertaining. Event organizers, including municipalities, would be in good stead to investigate such alternatives.

Listing of Municipal Public Surveys, Staff Reports, Meeting Minutes & Public Notices

City of Brampton

Fireworks By-law 243-2022

<https://www.brampton.ca/en/City-Hall/Bylaws/All%20Bylaws/Fireworks.PDF>

City Council – Special Meeting –Minutes November 28, 2022

Pages 40-41

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/meetings-agendas/Documents/2022-2026%20Term%20of%20Council%20Minutes.pdf>

Committee of Council – Minutes Wednesday, November 23, 2022

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/meetings-agendas/Documents/2022-2026%20Committee%20of%20Council%20Minutes.pdf>

Public Notice: Enforcement and By-law Services – Fireworks

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/By-Law-Enforcement/Pages/Fireworks.aspx>

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON

BY-LAW NO. 2022-022

A by-law to regulate and prohibit the sale and discharge of fireworks, to provide for the issuance of permits for the sale and discharge of fireworks and to repeal By-law 2009-097

https://www.caledon.ca/uploads/14/Doc_634952249309064446.pdf

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022. 6:00 p.m.

Pages 2-5

<https://pub-caledon.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=23317>

Staff Report 2022-0182

Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

Subject: Fireworks By-law Update and Proposed Fee for Consumer Fireworks Display for Community Events.

Submitted By: Dave Pelayo, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention, Training and Environmental Monitoring, Fire and Emergency Services

<https://pub-caledon.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=21139>

Town of Caledon Public Notice

<https://www.caledon.ca/en/news/fireworks-by-law-helps-ease-complaints.aspx>

Town of Whitby Firework By-law Review and Staff Recommendations

Report FES 04-23 recommends Council rescind By-law #6339-10 and prohibit the possession, sale and/or discharge of all consumer fireworks in the Town of Whitby.

<https://pub-whitby.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=15576>

Public Survey Results

<https://pub-whitby.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=15577>

City of Toronto Public Notice, Extract

IMPACTS OF FIREWORKS ON BIRDS

Victoria Day and Canada Day both fall during nesting season. Fireworks can have negative consequences for Toronto's birds and their babies. Fireworks can:

- Drown out a bird's ability to communicate and cause birds to abandon nests and fledglings for their own perceived safety
- Start fires, especially in meadow habitats, which can destroy ground bird nests and deplete food sources.
- Contain toxic heavy metals that mix with water and create hazardous drinking water for birds.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/public-notices-bylaws/bylaw-enforcement/fireworks/use-disposal-of-fireworks/>

Academic Studies, Research & Other Materials

The press release below precedes the following study under the title, **Toxicity of particles emitted by fireworks**

NYU Langone Health RESEARCH, PRESS RELEASES | JULY 2, 2020

Common Fireworks Release Lead, Copper & Other Toxic Metals into the Air

Metals Used to Give Fireworks Color Damage Human Cells & Animal Lungs

<https://nyulangone.org/news/common-fireworks-release-lead-copper-other-toxic-metals-air#:~:text=Along%20with%20lead%2C%20titanium%2C%20strontium,Gordon.>

Toxicity of particles emitted by fireworks

Christina Hickey, Christopher Gordon, Karen Galdanes, Martin Blaustein, Lori Horton, Steven Chillrud, James Ross, Lital Yinon, Lung Chi Chen & Terry Gordon

Terry Gordon, PhD, a professor in the Department of Medicine and a member of the Division of Environmental Medicine and his team also analyzed 14 years' worth of air quality samples taken at dozens of sites across the United States by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) throughout each year. They found that levels of toxic metals were higher in samples taken near Independence Day and New Year's Eve celebrations than at any other time of the year. Along with lead, titanium, strontium, and copper are commonly found in fireworks.

"Although people are only exposed to these substances for a short time each year, they are much more toxic than the pollutants we breathe every day," added Dr. Gordon.

Extracts -

Background

Throughout the year, numerous types of celebratory fireworks or pyrotechnic displays are set off across the world. Often, the only limit on the size and number of the displays is cost. In the past, while U.S. pyrotechnics traditionally were reserved for special occasions such as July 4th and Chinese New Year, pyrotechnic displays are now prevalent at rock concerts, opening ceremonies of the Olympics, amusement parks, and sports venues. Amusement parks are the largest consumers of fireworks in the U.S., whereas the single largest fireworks show is the July 4th display sponsored by Macy's [1]. In addition to these large public fireworks displays, small, and often illegal, fireworks are often ignited locally within residential neighborhoods. According to the American Pyrotechnics Association, the amount of consumer fireworks (258.4 million pounds) intended for use by the general public (i.e., 1.4G explosives) and purchased in the U.S. is more than 10-fold greater than that used for large celebratory fireworks (19.1 million pounds) displayed by pyrotechnic professionals (i.e., 1.3G explosives) [2] and, thus, are a significant concern for adverse health effects.

To date, the greatest health concern regarding fireworks has been the potential for injury to life and limb due to the explosive force of fireworks. Each year, approximately 10,000 to 25,000 people (predominantly male teenagers) in the U.S. suffer physical and burn injuries, due to fireworks, which include the loss of fingers, limbs, eyesight, and sometimes, life [3,4,5]. The environmental effects are also a concern as evidenced by numerous publications that describe the release and contamination of air and waterways with perchlorates and other toxicants [6, 7].

Discussion

Because the 10 fireworks chosen for this study were all pyrotechnic displays that can be purchased by individuals and used at home, the potential for exposure of children to significant amounts of Pb and other toxic metals from such products is unwarranted yet preventable.

The results of this study suggest that in addition to organic pollutants [6], significant amounts of toxic metals are released into the ambient environment from both home pyrotechnic displays and larger commercial fireworks. These releases, as demonstrated by exposure assessment air pollution studies [16, 25], are episodic in nature but can potentially be significant emission sources of metals. We have confirmed this time-dependent increase in airborne metal concentrations throughout the U.S. by using a 10-year period of data from EPA's speciation network [27].

In addition, although primarily for reasons of cost, some fireworks exhibitions have been replaced by light shows that encompass laser and LED displays accompanied by music and explosive sounds.

Conclusions

Our research has demonstrated that fireworks particulate emissions are more toxic in vitro than typical urban particulate matter. This in vitro toxicity was dependent on the composition of the particulate emissions as shown by the large range in toxicity among the fireworks types examined in this study. The in vivo studies in mice validated the in vitro findings for a subset of particles and suggest that the in vitro results are translatable to the mammalian lung. Surprisingly, highly toxic metals, such as Pb, were present at exceedingly high levels in the emissions of some of the tested fireworks. Our temporal survey of the metal species present in the air across the U.S. demonstrated that the metals associated with increased toxicity in our ground-based pyrotechnic displays are elevated in samples taken around the holiday celebrations of July 4 and New Years. These findings bring up the obvious question of whether adverse cardiopulmonary effects are associated with exposure to fireworks-linked metals during these

holiday periods. Responsible manufacturing can have a major impact on reducing toxic metals in both commercial and residential pyrotechnics displays and their potential for producing adverse health effects.

<https://particleandfibretoxicology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12989-020-00360-4>

The Hidden Harms Of Fireworks On Wildlife And People

<https://raog.ca/the-harmful-effects-of-fireworks/>

World Animal Protection

Fireworks: A Distressful Celebration

<https://www.worldanimalprotection.org.in/blogs/fireworks-distressful-celebration>

Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation

Groundwater and Drinking Water Protection for Indianapolis and Marion County Indiana

How Fireworks Pollute Our Drinking Water

<https://mcwec.org/2022/06/how-fireworks-pollute-our-drinking-water/>

Government of Canada

Fireworks-related injuries Published:(2019-06-27)

The Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) is an injury and poisoning sentinel surveillance system currently operating in the emergency departments of 11 paediatric and 8 general hospitals across Canada. Since its inception in 1990, this database has collected over 3.2 million records, making it an important resource for information on injuries and moving forward programs and policies that aim at reducing and preventing injuries among Canadians.

<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/datalab/firework-blog.html>

Unfortunately, not a lot of information exists for Canada therefore U.S information is included whereby it may be possible, in certain circumstances, to extrapolate the information and apply this to Canada.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: 2019 Fireworks Annual Report June 2020

Fireworks-Related Deaths, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries, and Enforcement Activities During 2019

<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2019-Fireworks-Annual-Report.pdf>

National Fire Protection Association (USA)

Fireworks fires and injuries

Report: NFPA's "Fireworks Fires and Injuries" Author: Marty Ahrens. Issued: June 2020

<https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fireworks-fires-and-injures>

Public Notices

24/7 ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER: Household Items – Fireworks

Toxicity to pets

<https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/poison/fireworks/>

Media Press Articles

Audubon: Illegal Fireworks Likely Cause of Massive Arkansas Blackbird Deaths. January 04, 2011

<https://www.audubon.org/news/illegal-fireworks-likely-cause-massive-arkansas-blackbird-deaths#:~:text=Professional%2Dgrade%20fireworks%20probably%20caused,to%20crash%20to%20thei%20deaths.>

Forbes: How do Fireworks Harm Wild Birds. Dec 30, 2017

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/12/30/how-do-fireworks-harm-wild-birds/?sh=56263a8118cc>

Bird Guides, First for Bird News. 09/01/2021

New Year's Eve fireworks 'scared birds to death'

<https://www.birdguides.com/news/new-years-eve-fireworks-scared-birds-to-death/>

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee
From: Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development
Subject: Winter Response Program Outcome Report Year-over-Year Comparison
Date: August 15, 2023

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, the following report “Winter Response Program Year-over-Year Comparison” **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

Executive Summary

Individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness have been supported through an emergency cold weather winter response for the past three years. Each Winter Response was unique in their service delivery, however each focused on bringing individuals in out of the cold while providing basic needs within various programs offered by a multitude of supporting agencies.

That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to include a year over year comparison, for the past three years (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023), on the number of bed days available/occupied, number of bed nights available/occupied, number of hours service bed facility, number of hours service non-bed facility and total expenses, with the Winter Response Program Outcome Report at the August meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee. (2023-C04) (4.4/10/CPSC)

The original Winter Response emerged at a time when many agencies were needing to reduce occupancy, find additional space to operate from, while also introducing safety protocols related to the pandemic. This included the City playing a role in the provision of isolating and monitoring spaces for those that were awaiting COVID testing results or had tested positive for COVID. The different and iterative process of the respective Winter Responses makes comparing the three to each previous response difficult without acknowledging the factors from which they came and the intent of each. This report aims to provide a year-over-year comparison of the outcomes of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Winter Response Program for Unsheltered Individuals, focusing on the primary winter months of each response, from December 1 – March 31 of each year with no extensions.

Each Winter Response incorporated life-saving focused resources and housing focused services. The delivery of these services was made possible by several City funded and contracted agencies. Each organization went above and beyond to create a plan, expand their scope of traditional service delivery and produced much needed critical service delivery options. Each organization diligently worked to maximize the use of one-time funding through extended operating hours, introducing new temporary solutions and increasing existing indoor sheltering capacity.

Throughout the process of each Winter Response, the considerations of the ongoing pandemic, the increasing number of individuals experiencing homelessness, and the capacity of the service system factored into the design and implementation of the response. Funds to deliver each response came from a number of sources, but much of each response was supported by the availability of time-limited funding through the Provincial Social Services Relief Funding.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This report aligns with the strategic areas of focus in the 2023-2027 City of London Strategic Plan. The City of London Strategic Plan (2023-2027) identifies housing and homelessness as a key area of focus, and housing and homelessness work is identified throughout the Strategic Plan, impacting all areas of life for Londoners.

Some key outcomes that are supported through the investments outlined in this report include:

- The City of London demonstrates leadership and builds partnerships to increase quality, affordable, and supportive housing options.
- London has a robust community system of health, homelessness, housing stability services, policies, procedures and by-laws in place to support individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness or in precarious housing consistent with Council's recognition of the health and homelessness emergency.
- The City of London enhances the confidence of Indigenous Peoples by furthering truth and reconciliation efforts.
- The City of London is a leader in becoming an equitable and inclusive community.
- London is an affordable and supportive community for individuals and families.
- The City of London demonstrates leadership by taking meaningful actions to address and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, gender-based violence, and sexual violence.

Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (2019-2024)

London's Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan, Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (Housing Stability for All Plan), is the approved guiding document for homeless prevention and housing in the City of London and was developed in consultation with Londoners.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- 2022-2023 Winter Response Program Outcome Report (CPSC: May 24, 2023)
- 2022-2023 Winter Response and Community Accountability Working Group Funding Reallocation Request (CPSC: April 12, 2023)
- 2022-2023 Winter Response Program and Action and Accountability Working Group Update (CPSC: November 29, 2022)
- City of London 2021-2022 Winter Response Program for Unsheltered Individuals (CPSC: April 20, 2022)
- City of London 2020-2021 Winter Response Program for Unsheltered Individuals (November 2, 2021)
- Update – City of London 2020-2021 Winter Response Program For Unsheltered Individuals (CPSC: April 20, 2021)
- City of London 2020-2021 Winter Response Program for Unsheltered Individuals (CPSC: December 1, 2020)
- Municipal Council Approval of The Housing Stability Plan 2019 to 2024 as Required Under the Housing Services Act, 2011 (CPSC: December 3, 2019)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Background

The Winter Response Program was first implemented in 2020 as an emergency life saving measure as a response to COVID-19 concerns and due to the increasing number of unsheltered individuals living in community. During the pandemic there were very few places available for individuals to get in out of the cold. The 2020-2021 Winter Response focused on

temporarily housing individuals with high acuity who historically would not seek traditional shelter. It also provided centrally located day space for individuals to take shelter indoors to get warm, provided meals and basic needs while maintaining safe social distancing and making available necessary masking and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) resources.

With a significant and continued increase in individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the 2021-2022 Winter Response had a strong housing focus component in addition to drop-in day and night resting spaces. The response provided transitional housing and introduced an Indigenous led, culturally supportive response. The 2021-2022 year also offered safe places for unsheltered individuals to go to get in out of the cold and be supported as the pandemic continued. Basic needs and hygiene services were also offered throughout the response as were Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) supplies and COVID testing.

The 2022-2023 Winter Response was a fully community led response as per the outcomes of discussions and demonstration in the summer of 2022, which led to the creation of the Immediate Action to Support the City’s Most Marginalized Community Action and Accountability Table (Community Action & Accountability Table). To support the continued increase in both numbers and desperation of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and try to ensure prevent deaths on the street, the concentrated focus was an increase in basic needs provisions and drop-in spaces to bring the community in out of the cold during the coldest months. An overall collaborative approach to ensure unified support through the winter months was applied which provided several positive interactions and supports for those at greatest risk due to cold weather.

2.2 2020-2021 Program Expectations and Outcomes:

# of bed days available	7,006
# of bed days occupied	6,988
# of bed nights available	7,006
# of bed nights occupied	6,988
# of hours service bed facility	5,424
# of hours service non-bed facility	1,029
Total 2020 - 2021 Expenses	\$1,687,592

2.3 2021-2022 Program Expectations and Outcomes:

# of bed days available	13,166
# of bed days occupied	12,308
# of bed nights available	13,166
# of bed nights occupied	12,308
# of hours service bed facility	7,086
# of hours service non-bed facility	1,452
Total 2021 - 2022 Expenses	\$1,320,000

2.4 2022-2023 Program Expectations and Outcomes:

# of bed days available	7,674
# of bed days occupied	4,394
# of bed nights available	15,964
# of bed nights occupied	11,250
# of hours service bed facility	11,927.5
# of hours service non-bed facility	4,021
Total 2022 - 2023 Expenses	\$1,907,107

3.0 Financial Comparison

3.1. 2020-2021 Finances

The Winter Response Program was budgeted through Provincial Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) for \$2,009,812 and was scheduled to be in operation from December 1, 2020, until March 31, 2021. This included the purchase and retrofitting of several construction trailers to accommodate individual rooms for occupancy. Although portions of the program were extended for additional months, the actual spending for base programs came in under budget by 16% with a total cost of \$1,687,592. This response used a multi-site service delivery plan and incorporated the bringing onsite of things like showers, washrooms, and basic needs supplies.

3.2. 2021-2022 Finances

The Winter Response Program scheduled to run December 1, 2021, until March 31, 2022, was budgeted through SSRF funding for \$1,722,069 and came in under budget by 23%, with total spending of \$1,320,000 for the scheduled period. Expenses included \$450,000 to support the day and overnight drop in spaces, \$500,000 to support the Fanshawe temporary transitional shelter response and \$370,000 to support Wiigiwaaminaan, an Indigenous-led response. The modified construction trailers were also used in 2021-22, thereby saving any major capital investments in space as well the use of a City facility.

3.3. 2022-2023 Finances

The total amount of approved funding for Winter Response 2022-2023 was up to \$5,000,000 through allocated SSRF Phase 5 funding, Reaching Home COVID response funding, remaining provincial Homelessness Prevention Program funding, and municipal funding from the Housing Stability Services base budget.

Unlike previous Winter Responses, the response led by the Community Action & Accountability Table included several programming plans with one- and two-year schedules from the onset. For example, Atlohsa's Wiigiwaaminaan was funded for two years, and Salvation Army Centre of Hope showers and women only shelter beds, London Cares Hub and additional outreach, training and resting spaces were funded for a year.

The portion of Winter Response scheduled to operate from December 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, was budgeted for \$2,209,000 and came in under budget by 13.6%, with total spending of \$1,907,107. The remaining \$2,791,000 allocated funding is being spent to support programs noted above to Dec 1, 2023 and Atlohsa's Wiigiwaaminaan site to Dec 1, 2024.

Underspent dollars were reallocated under the recommendation of the Community Action & Accountability Table and approved by Council on April 25, 2023 to extend select community services for an additional 3 months. A final 2023-24 winter response report back is expected to be brought to committee in early 2024 after all reporting from participating agencies is received.

Conclusion

Although all Winter Responses had the common goal of supporting unsheltered individuals with emergency life saving measures by offering options of getting in out of the cold, each year contained unique focuses. The scaling up of a Winter Response originated as a life saving measure in 2020 out of sheer necessity to support the individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness during COVID-19 when there were new measures and requirements incorporated through provincial and local public health bodies. The pandemic negatively impacted the safety of London's most vulnerable as congregate living settings were challenging when it came to physical distancing and outbreak containment. Additionally, many services and spaces that vulnerable Londoners relied on became closed or modified service delivery was introduced as everyone attempted to navigate the pandemic.

The 2021-22 Winter Response continued as London saw a devastating increase in homelessness and covid restrictions that limited any indoor public access to the most marginalized. During the pandemic, the city of London as a community continued to simultaneously experience an increase in housing challenges, addictions poisoning and mental health challenges that all contributed in various way to exacerbate the ongoing crises.

In planning for the winter response 2022-23, the number individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness and their level of desperation had reached an untenable state. Homelessness numbers had unpredictably more than doubled since the first winter response. The need to provide individuals with options to get in out of the cold, support basic needs and a more holistic support model was identified by the table as paramount to the response. The Community Action & Accountability Table collaborated on a commitment to offer flexible service models that supported the maximum number of individuals experiencing homelessness to get in out of the cold until the whole of community system response was able to hold summits and establish the response framework that was recently approved by council.

The work of the Whole of Community System Response through the creation of 24/7 Hubs in 2023 will reduce and eventually eliminate the need to create one-off temporary measures, however as this work happens, the Encampment Implementation Table continues to prepare a plan for a 2023-24 Cold Weather Response that is expected to come forward to the September Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee.

Prepared by:	Debbie Kramers, Manager, Coordinated Informed Response
Submitted by:	Craig Cooper, Director, Housing Stability Services
Recommended by:	Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development

APPENDIX A:

Winter Response Year-Over-Year Comparison

On June 27, 2023, Municipal Council directed Civic Administration to provide a year-over-year comparison for the past three years (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023) on the number of bed days available/occupied, number of bed nights available/occupied, the number of hours service bed facility, the number of hours-of-service non-bed facility, and total expenses for the Winter Response Program.

It should be noted that the results below represent the months of December, January, February, and March for each year. However, the start and end dates for each service varied within those months. Further, the bed days and bed nights were based on a book in model and the beds were occupied for the entire time. Further, many bed nights were in spaces that had 24-hour bed access. This means that while these spaces were counted as bed night spaces, they also offered day spaces and are not included in the number of bed days available.

	2020 - 2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
# of bed days available	7006	13166	7674
# of bed days occupied	6988	12308	4394
# of bed nights available	7006	13166	15964
# of bed nights occupied	6988	12308	11250
# of hours service bed facility	5424	7086	11928
# of hours service non-bed facility	1029	1452	4021
Total expenses	\$1,687,592	\$1,320,000	\$1,907,107

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members,
Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and
Community-Wide Services

Subject: Fireworks By-law Options Public Participation Meeting Report

Date: August 15, 2023

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, the following actions be taken with respect to the Fireworks By-law - PW-11:

- a) the report dated August 15, 2023 and titled “Fireworks By-law Options Public Participation Meeting Report” BE RECEIVED as information with regards to the community poll that took place on the Get Involved London website from July 12, 2023, to July 31, 2023; and,
- b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to REPORT BACK at a future meeting of the Community and Protective Services Committee summarizing public comments including the submission of a draft by-law amendment.

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the options to the current Fireworks By-law for Council and the public to consider at the Public Participation Meeting being held on August 15, 2023 (full details on the options are outlined in the [Fireworks By-Law Options Report](#)). Results from the Get Involved London community poll regarding the update to Fireworks Draft By-law – PW-11 are also highlighted in this report.

Previous Reports Pertinent to this Matter

- [Fireworks By-Law Options Report](#) - (June 13, 2023, CPSC)
- [Amendment of Fireworks By-law PW-11](#) - (June 21, 2016, CPSC)
- [Amend Fireworks By-law](#) – (April 26, 2016, CPSC)
- [Amendment of Fireworks By-Law PW-11](#) – (June 16, 2013, CPSC)

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The Fireworks By-law Options Public Participation Meeting Report is aligned with the following strategic area of focus and outcome from the City of London’s Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027:

- Wellbeing and Safety: London has safe, vibrant, and healthy neighbourhoods and communities.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Council Direction on Fireworks

At its meeting on June 27, 2023, Municipal Council resolved:

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, the following actions be taken with respect to the staff report dated June 13, 2023, related to Fireworks By-law Options:

- a) the Civic administration BE DIRECTED to hold a public participation meeting at a future of the Community and Protective Services Committee (CPSC) in order to receive comments on proposed changes to the Fireworks By-law PW-11; it being noted that additional direction to the Civic Administration will be provided, following the consideration of comments and submissions at the public participation meeting;
- b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back at a future meeting of the CPSC summarizing public comments including the submission of a draft by-law amendment; and,
- c) the requests for delegation, as appended to the Agenda and the Added Agenda, from V.R. Anber and A. Kanji BE DEFERRED to the above-noted future public participation meeting with respect to this matter;

it being noted that the communications, as appended to the Agenda and the Added Agenda, from the following individuals, with respect to this matter, were received:

- V.R. Anber;
- A. Kanji;
- M. Luce;
- Brandy;
- D. Ronson and B. Amendola; and,
- J. Morton and A. Haase. (2023-P01)

1.2 Context

This report is a continuation of the June 13, 2023, [Fireworks By-Law Options Report](#) , and presents the results from the [Get Involved London community](#) poll. In addition, it provides an overview on the options previously presented to Council regarding the frequency and type of fireworks allowed in London.

Civic Administration has completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the lifecycle for reviewing the current [Fireworks By-law - PW-11-16002](#). Phase 1 involved receiving feedback via a survey regarding residents' opinions on fireworks in the community. Phase 2 involved reviewing other municipalities' policies and presenting a draft of the report. Subsequently, the current poll was implemented to capture the community's opinion on Options A and B (see below) that were presented to the Community and Protective Services Committee on June 13, 2023.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Overview of the Two Proposed Options for Consideration

Below are the two options Civic Administration proposed for Council and the public to comment on at the upcoming public participation meeting:

Option A would allow for consumer (backyard) fireworks to be discharged on Canada Day and Victoria Day only. This means that dates prior to or preceding Canada Day would no longer be allowed for discharge. In addition, this option would also allow for consumer (backyard) fireworks to be discharged on Diwali. Option A would also decrease the number of days allowed to sell fireworks from seven to five days and propose an increase to current fines.

Option B would allow for permitted display fireworks only to be discharged which has traditionally included Canada Day, Victoria Day, Diwali, and New Years Eve in London. This option would ban all consumer (backyard) fireworks, ban the sale of consumer fireworks in London, and propose an increase to current fines.

Further details on the proposed options outlined above can be found in the [Fireworks By-Law Options Report](#)

2.1 Summary of a quick poll on Get Involved London Site

Londoners were invited to participate in a quick poll on Get Involved to choose an option ("Do you prefer") based on the two (2) options outlined above. Of the 1,635 contributors who voted in the poll, 52.2% chose Option A and 47.8% chose Option B.

Poll Statistics and Results:

- There were 8,200 visits to the City’s Get Involved London community engagement website.
- There were 1,635 engaged contributors who participated in the poll, “Do You Prefer Option A or Option B?”.
- There were 2,341 informed visitors who downloaded a document or visited a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page.
- Of the visitors to the site, 6,257 visited at least one page where information was provided.

Overview of Free-Text Comments Received:

- Ban backyard fireworks and the sale of personal fireworks.
- The rules do not work, no one follows them.
- Difficult to enforce and no enforcement.
- People do not abide by the current by-law.
- Fireworks are set off at all hours – four or more nights straight on holiday weekends.
- Tried calling the emergency line and no one answers.
- The purchase and discharge are uncontrolled.
- Reduce environmental impact – only allow city-controlled displays.
- Disruptive to sleep, persons with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Damaging impacts on the environment and animals, both wild and domestic.
- Too many people making noise, getting louder and louder.
- Suggestion of a drone show, drones are excellent and quiet.

2.3 Next Steps

Based on Council’s direction, Civic Administration will draft a revised Fireworks By-law for consideration at a future Community and Protective Services Committee meeting. Depending on the changes made to the current by-law, the revised by-law will also include enhancements to enforcement, sale of fireworks and a proposed increase to the current fines. It is intended that a new By-law be in place in the first quarter of 2024.

While this work is underway, Civic Administration continues to respond to and educate the community on the safe discharge of fireworks and the current municipal by-law that remains in full effect.

Conclusion

Civic Administration recognizes that the discharge of fireworks has become a concern to our community and that changes to the Fireworks By-law may be required. Based on Council’s direction, Civic Administration will bring forward a revised Fireworks By-law for consideration at a future Community and Protective Service Committee meeting.

Prepared by: Matt Hepditch, Deputy Fire Chief

Submitted by: Richard Hayes, Acting Fire Chief

Recommended by: Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services

K & H DISTRIBUTING
11684 County Rd. 42 R.R. #2
Tecumseh, On N8N 0G2

Phone: (519) 979-2471

Fax: (519) 979-2813

1-800-390-3563
sales@khfireworks.ca

The Corporation of the City of London

June 1, 2023

Community and protective Services Committee

Re: Fireworks Review

Hello, I am Victor Anber. I own K&H Distributing Fireworks and I do the majority of Professional fireworks displays in the city.

I am writing to talk about the fireworks review and some of the news articles that have been published over the past couple of years.

I'll begin with Professional Firework Displays. Fireworks has a fascination for humans that transcends all boundaries, it doesn't matter what age you are, your sexual orientation, where you are from, cultural background or religion, people all around the world are fascinated with fireworks; and they demonstrate this love and fascination year after year after with their attendance at the displays. Surveys protesting fireworks are not worth consideration as a very vocal minority can influence survey results by voting multiple times and soliciting support from like-minded groups from around the world. However you cannot falsify the people voting in favour of fireworks. They vote with their attendance at the multiple displays in and around The City of London. The following attendance numbers are from the event organizers.

Fork of the Thames:	40,000+
Byron Optimists:	9,000 – 10,000
Summerside Community Club:	5,000+
WestPark Church:	7,000+
White Oaks Park:	20,000+
Highland Golf & Country Club:	numbers unknown at this time

All of these displays are on or immediately before/after Canada Day. This is a huge segment of the London population that has no issues with safe, legal, professional displays.

People speak of "Quieter fireworks." "Quieter fireworks" cannot entertain a large, spread out, group; this is especially true for the Fork of the Thames which a large majority of the City is able to see from a great distance. "Quieter fireworks" are pyrotechnic articles that do not reach the height of, nor break and spread across the sky as professional display fireworks do. If you do want to get to larger, higher pyrotechnics, you are in the "Stadium Product" line and it is certainly not quiet. Pyrotechnic articles are much pricier than display fireworks and made in much smaller quantities, often to order/per event.

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Drones have been suggested as an alternative. Drones are very expensive and usually much shorter shows than display fireworks. It was quoted in the London Free Press that one can have a 50 drone show for about \$16,000.00. The city of Woodstock was mentioned, their show was 100 drones and lasted 9 minutes. The budget is not public but doing the math using the figures in the Newspaper would have been approximately \$30,000.00. This would be without musical choreography or Lasers to heighten the effect of the show upon the audience.

Firework displays draw community together, entertain very large crowds and elicit the “oohs and ahhs” one can hear in videos of the displays showing the audience interacting with the display and the display’s effect upon the audience.

A partial list of the benefits of large, public, firework displays:

1. **Entertainment and Celebration:** Fireworks displays are often associated with joyous occasions and celebrations such as national holidays, New Year's Eve, and cultural festivals. They provide a visual spectacle and a sense of excitement, creating a festive atmosphere that brings people together. These events can boost community spirit and promote social cohesion.
2. **Economic Impact:** Fireworks displays can have a positive economic impact on local communities. Large-scale displays attract tourists and visitors, resulting in increased spending on hotels, restaurants, transportation, and other local businesses. This influx of tourism can stimulate the local economy and create employment opportunities.
3. **Cultural Significance:** In many cultures, fireworks hold symbolic and cultural significance. They may represent traditions, historical events, or religious celebrations. By organizing fireworks displays, communities can honor and preserve their cultural heritage, passing down traditions from one generation to another.
4. **Civic Pride:** Fireworks displays often serve as a source of civic pride. Communities take pride in organizing and hosting impressive fireworks shows that showcase their creativity and organizational skills. Such events can enhance community morale, promote a sense of belonging, and foster community pride.
5. **Entertainment for All Ages:** Fireworks displays have broad appeal and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. They create a shared experience, bringing together families, friends, and communities. Children, in particular, often find fireworks displays awe-inspiring and memorable, contributing to their overall enjoyment and sense of wonder.
6. **Artistic Expression:** Fireworks displays can be considered a form of artistic expression. The choreography, colors, patterns, and synchronized music can create a visually stunning and emotionally captivating experience. Fireworks designers and technicians work to create unique and aesthetically pleasing displays that can be appreciated as an art form. Huge competition fireworks festivals are held worldwide.

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Now I would like to address Consumer Fireworks. Consumer Fireworks in Canada is highly regulated by the Federal Government. The standards are unmatched almost anywhere else in the world. Consumer Fireworks have been a part of Canadian families' Victoria Day and Canada Day celebrations for almost 100 years.

Covid changed so many things and the use of Consumer Fireworks was one of them. People were housebound, no public gatherings, no public firework displays. It seems many people started entertaining themselves with firework shows in their backyards outside of the normal holiday weekends allowed. Things are almost back to "normal" now. Public displays are back, people can travel, go out and have far less down time at home. It is obvious by the drop in the number of complaints, that regular use of consumer fireworks has leveled out. There will always be someone who regardless of rules will do as they please but this is true in all aspects of life, not just fireworks use.

London is fortunate to have at least 4, long time, legal, safe, insured and professional fireworks vendors. They have operated in the city for 20 plus years and 2 for 40 years during the Victoria Day and Canada Day sales periods. The internet, however, allows purchase by anyone, anytime, no questions asked.

Reviewing the Fireworks Bylaw and using statistics from 2020 and 2021, would essentially be basing decisions on flawed data, data that is skewed by extraneous circumstances that changed the entire world for two years.

We respectfully submit that it would be more accurate, more fact based, to see what the summer of 2023 brings and address the issue at that time.

Thank you for your time in reading this and for your consideration. I would be more than happy to answer any questions and attend any meetings should you so wish.

Yours truly,



Victor R. Anber

Community and Protective Services Committee
Via: email – cpsc@london.ca

July 26, 2023

I plan on attending the August 15th, Public Participation Meeting, in person, regarding Fireworks By-Law OW-11 Amendments.

I wish to speak and to be available to answer questions. I did attend the last meeting, via Zoom, but was not afforded the opportunity to speak.

I have attached a copy of our letter of June 1st submitted for the CPSC meeting, with one addition. I also attach a cover letter and petition in favour of Consumer Fireworks and against a ban of this legal product. The original is available and will be part of my August 15th presentation.

I ask that you kindly confirm receipt of this email and the attachments as well as confirm that I will be listed as a delegate August 15th.

Yours truly,

Patricia Toal for,

Victor R. Anber

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Community and Protective Services Committee
Via: email – cpsc@london.ca

July 26, 2023

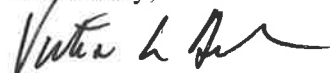
Further to our letter of June 1st, below, I plan on attending the August 15th, Public Participation Meeting regarding Fireworks By-Law PW-11 Amendments.

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I ask that you kindly confirm receipt of this letter and the petition its cover letter as well as confirm that I will be listed as a delegate August 15th.

Yours truly,



Victor R. Anber

Letter submitted June 1st via email. (Added to, July 26th)

The Corporation of the City of London

June 1, 2023

Community and protective Services Committee

Re: Fireworks Review

Hello, I am Victor Anber. I own K&H Distributing Fireworks and I do the majority of Professional fireworks displays in the city.

I am writing to talk about the fireworks review and some of the news articles that have been published over the past couple of years.

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I'll begin with Professional Firework Displays. Fireworks has a fascination for humans that transcends all boundaries, it doesn't matter what age you are, your sexual orientation, where you are from, cultural background or religion, people all around the world are fascinated with fireworks; and they demonstrate this love and fascination year after year after with their attendance at the displays. Surveys protesting fireworks are not worth consideration as a very vocal minority can influence survey results by voting multiple times and soliciting support from like-minded groups from around the world. However you cannot falsify the people voting in favour of fireworks. They vote with their attendance at the multiple displays in and around The City of London. The following attendance numbers are from the event organizers.

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All of these displays are on or immediately before/after Canada Day. This is a huge segment of the London population that has no issues with safe, legal, professional displays.

People speak of “Quieter fireworks.” “Quieter fireworks” cannot entertain a large, spread out, group; this is especially true for the Fork of the Thames which a large majority of the City is able to see from a great distance. “Quieter fireworks” are pyrotechnic articles that do not reach the height of, nor break and spread across the sky as professional display fireworks do. If you do want to get to larger, higher pyrotechnics, you are in the “Stadium Product” line and it is certainly not quiet. Pyrotechnic articles are much pricier than display fireworks and made in much smaller quantities, often to order/per event.

Drones have been suggested as an alternative. Drones are very expensive and usually much shorter shows than display fireworks. It was quoted in the London Free Press that one can have a 50 drone show for about \$16,000.00. The city of Woodstock was mentioned, their show was 100 drones and lasted 9 minutes. The budget is not public but doing the math using the figures in the Newspaper would have been approximately \$30,000.00. This would be without musical choreography or Lasers to heighten the effect of the show upon the audience.

Firework displays draw community together, entertain very large crowds and elicit the “oohs and ahhs” one can hear in videos of the displays showing the audience interacting with the display and the display's effect upon the audience.

A partial list of the benefits of large, public, firework displays:

1. **Entertainment and Celebration:** Fireworks displays are often associated with joyous occasions and celebrations such as national holidays, New Year's Eve, and cultural festivals. They provide a visual spectacle and a sense of excitement, creating a festive atmosphere that brings people together. These events can boost community spirit and promote social cohesion.
2. **Economic Impact:** Fireworks displays can have a positive economic impact on local communities. Large-scale displays attract tourists and visitors, resulting in increased spending on hotels, restaurants, transportation, and other local businesses. This influx of tourism can stimulate the local economy and create employment opportunities.
3. **Cultural Significance:** In many cultures, fireworks hold symbolic and cultural significance. They may represent traditions, historical events, or religious celebrations. By organizing fireworks displays, communities can honor and preserve their cultural heritage, passing down traditions from one generation to another.
4. **Civic Pride:** Fireworks displays often serve as a source of civic pride. Communities take pride in organizing and hosting impressive fireworks shows that showcase their creativity and organizational skills. Such events can enhance community morale, promote a sense of belonging, and foster community pride.
5. **Entertainment for All Ages:** Fireworks displays have broad appeal and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. They create a shared experience, bringing together families, friends, and communities. Children, in particular, often find fireworks displays awe-inspiring and memorable, contributing to their overall enjoyment and sense of wonder.
6. **Artistic Expression:** Fireworks displays can be considered a form of artistic expression. The choreography, colors, patterns, and synchronized music can create a visually stunning and emotionally captivating experience. Fireworks designers and technicians work to create unique and aesthetically pleasing displays that can be appreciated as an art form. Huge competition fireworks festivals are held worldwide.

Now I would like to address Consumer Fireworks. Consumer Fireworks in Canada is highly regulated by the Federal Government. The standards are unmatched almost anywhere else in the world. Consumer Fireworks have been a part of Canadian families' Victoria Day and Canada Day celebrations for almost 100 years.

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Covid changed so many things and the use of Consumer Fireworks was one of them. People were housebound, no public gatherings, no public firework displays. It seems many people started entertaining themselves with firework shows in their backyards outside of the normal holiday weekends allowed. Things are almost back to “normal” now. Public displays are back, people can travel, go out and have far less down time at home. It is obvious by the drop in the number of complaints, that regular use of consumer fireworks has leveled out. There will always be someone who regardless of rules will do as they please but this is true in all aspects of life, not just fireworks use.

London is fortunate to have at least 4, long time, legal, safe, insured and professional fireworks vendors. They have operated in the city for 20 plus years and 2 for 40 years during the Victoria Day and Canada Day sales periods. The internet, however, allows purchase by anyone, anytime, no questions asked.

Reviewing the Fireworks Bylaw and using statistics from 2020 and 2021, would essentially be basing decisions on flawed data, data that is skewed by extraneous circumstances that changed the entire world for two years.

We respectfully submit that it would be more accurate, more fact based, to see what the summer of 2023 brings and address the issue at that time.

Thank you for your time in reading this and for your consideration. I would be more than happy to answer any questions and attend any meetings should you so wish.

Yours truly,



Victor R. Anber

July 26th

I would like to add to this previously submitted letter that there are also dozens of long established, independently owned, Variety Stores who have been selling fireworks for many years. The two seasons, Victoria Day and Canada Day, give these small businesses a financial boost that can be in the thousands of dollars. It is like “Christmas in the Spring/Summer” for them. Legally selling a legal product.

From: Aleem Kanji [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 2:01 PM
To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Fireworks Bylaw Options Report - CPSC June 13

Good afternoon,

I would like to speak via Zoom or whichever platform you use at the June 13 CPSC meeting. Kindly confirm receipt and advise who else is speaking.

Kind regards,

Aleem Kanji

CAO - Chief Advocacy Officer

Canadian National Fireworks Association

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee
From Shirley Sinnamon

12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023

PPM, Fireworks By-law Review] on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am asking that you select Option B

As a society, we are always changing, developing, growing, and doing better as we learn.

There are many reasons that I am against the use of fireworks in this day and age.

As a child, I enjoyed going to the firework displays put on by the community. The bright lights, the pictures in the sky, the loud heart throbbing booms, etc. The three or four times a year that firework displays went on became something to look forward to. However, it was very uncommon to see individuals in the city set off their own fireworks. In fact, it was difficult to purchase fireworks. We didn't have little pop-up stands that sold them for weeks in advance as we do now.

When my children were young, I learned very quickly that not everyone enjoys fireworks. You see, I have a special needs daughter. Part of her special needs center around auditory stimulation. She very easily and very quickly becomes overstimulated. When she was a child, I would have to leave the community fireworks displays within the first two or three loud booms. I soon realized that taking her to the displays was doing her a huge disservice so she and I would stay home while her father took her siblings.

As an adult, she is still easily overstimulated by loud noise. When fireworks are going off too close, she has panic attacks, high anxiety, overstimulation, and unnecessary stress.

When the firework displays are organized, and held on specific dates and locations, we can avoid the area on those dates and times to protect my daughter from the repercussions of her being overstimulated.

However, in the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of private fireworks displays. These are not held on any specific date or time. There is no rhyme or reason for them. They are set off at various times of the day and night. They continue for days and sometimes weeks at a time. There is no respect for neighbors' work schedules, needs, or health issues that are affected by the use of fireworks outside of the allotted dates and times.

I have been woken up late at night and early in the morning by inconsiderate people who don't abide by the by-laws that are already set in place. In fact, people have made a mockery of these by-laws on social media. Making statements such as, *light them off anyway, it's not like anyone is going to do anything about it* and * I have never had a by-law or police officer come stop me* or *they can't figure out where you are anyway* as well as *by the time they get to you, you'll be done so it doesn't matter. Do

what you want*. There are many more comments out there. These are just a few examples of comments I have personally seen.

When fireworks are set off late at night or early morning (I have heard them at 2 and 3 am in my area of the city), it affects my employment. I am tired from sleep disturbance due to being jarred awake from a deep sleep and having difficulty falling back to sleep. This affects my ability to focus at work which subsequently affects my work performance. When they are set off for days on end, exhaustion sets in, and it becomes difficult to fall asleep at my usual bedtime for fear of being jarred awake yet again. This affects my overall health and well-being.

Fireworks are also detrimental to the health of my pet. My dog is an eight-year-old mixed breed who we rescued when he was approximately nine months old. Due to the severe neglect and possible abuse that he suffered at the hands of his previous owners, he has a lot of anxiety. He is weary of strangers, particularly males. He is on high alert when there is any form of sudden movement and is extremely fearful of loud noise. When fireworks are being set off, he becomes very frightened. He cowers, shakes, barks, whines and hides.

The effects that fireworks have on our environment are barbaric to say the least. We live in a society where everyone is talking about leaving the least carbon footprint possible. However, fireworks contain chemicals such as perchlorate and heavy metals. These chemicals pollute the air, contaminate the water, and remain on the earth's surface for decades. This becomes hazardous to the health of not only humans, but also wildlife. Perchlorates affect the thyroid and kidneys in humans. If we are trying to reduce our carbon footprint, how can we condone the use of the toxins and pollutants contained in fireworks?

There are other options these days that allow us to move away from the hazards of explosive fireworks.

One of the options that has been used in other communities is drone light displays. They have all the beauty (if not more) of explosive fireworks without the noise or toxins.

I understand that we are not currently discussing the total ban on fireworks. However, I am asking that you ban the use of all consumer fireworks at this time.

I respectfully request you choose Option B today.

Sincerely,

Shirley Sinnamon

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Laura Green

RE: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee August 15, 2023

FIREWORKS BY-LAW REVIEW on the agenda

There is no such thing as 'safe' fireworks especially in the hands of careless people.

On August 15, 2023, please chose OPTION B and support the ban of all consumer and backyard fireworks

Fireworks are dangerous explosives; they are NOT toys. They should not be easily accessible to the public. They should only be made available to responsible adults for an organized public event with a permit granted by the municipality.

In London, fireworks can be purchased in parking lots as well as in variety stores. Anyone can purchase these explosives. Is this the message we want to continue to send to members in our community? That it is ok to purchase explosives while grabbing a bag of chips and a soda pop at your local convenience store.

In a recent poll in 2022, 56.6% of Londoners voted in support of a ban of fireworks other than displays permitted on specific dates at an organized public event.

This leads to my confusion, why has the city still not banned consumer and backyard fireworks? and yet here we are again another summer with no ban in place and fireworks being set off nightly, for a whole week prior to Canada Day?

Do city officials believe that all individuals set off fireworks only on permitted dates and times? There is proof that this is not the case.

There is an obvious reason why this continues to be an ongoing issue before city council and it's because what is currently in place, is NOT working. Changes need to be made: OPTION B.

There is not enough enforcement to confront these people who light off fireworks and have no respect for neighbors or the cities by-laws. It doesn't matter if the time is set from 7pm to 11pm. These people have such disregard for the residents and by-laws. The city can set fines, but what good is it, if we do not have sufficient enforcement officers to immediately attend the scene and issue fines? After working in corrections for almost 20 years, it is evident that our justice system in London is strained and given the increase and severity in criminal activity in London, our officers are needed in other areas. Sending officers to enforce violations of fireworks by-laws would further clog up our already limited resources and would only turn into a pointless game of whack-a-mole. Especially when the easiest solution to resolve this problem would be to ban the sale of public and consumer fireworks.

Not only are these explosive dangerous but they also cause great trauma on wildlife, domestic animals, people who have PTSD, old people in rest homes and those on hospice. Some people leave their homes (like myself this Canada Day weekend) and hope they don't come back to a home that might have caught fire. Furthermore, people end up in trauma units losing hands and fingers when irresponsibly setting off fireworks.

Here are three of my own personal experiences I would like to share with you:

On July 1, 2023 (during the permitted times), my nephew (age 10) was with his cousins (three girls all under 12 yo) were watching fireworks at the park on Denview and Sunningdale along with dozens of other people when a few of the fireworks fell over and shot directly into the viewers. Thankfully, a tragedy was diverted in this case. However, what if it had it severely injured a child or any person for that matter. In situations like this, we need to be proactive, not reactive to a tragedy that could be easily prevented.

My residence backs onto Sir Arthur Currie elementary school parking lot where numerous firecrackers are set off for 10 days before and up to 10 days after the sale of public fireworks. Last week, my friend's toddler was visiting when she picked up a piece of debris from a firework. And like most young children, she went to put it in her mouth. A toxic piece of material that could have caused irreversible damage to a child.

Another incident last summer that occurred in the park in my neighborhood; people were setting off numerous fireworks at midnight (not during city permitted dates/times). After listening to them for 30 mins and trying to calm down my frightened dog, I got fed up and drove there to confront them! They were leaving as I pulled up and left a large mound of garbage that was lit on fire with flames up to 4 feet high. I had to call the fire department to put out the fire. But what would've happened if I was not there? The park could've been destroyed; tax payers hard earned money up in flames, in something that could've been prevented.

Falling debris from firecrackers cannot be contained. Debris has fallen on the property of many people; cars damaged from debris, lit debris falling on roofs and patio furniture (cloth) that can easily ignite and cause house fires and significant damage to neighborhoods.

Were amid an unprecedented wildfire catastrophe in our province. Some cities in Ontario have done the right thing and have banned fireworks this year because the risk of causing further damage is too high. But not the city of London. So I ask you, is entertainment for some more important than the safety of our city?

A scientist told Forbes that when the fireworks go off, the metal salts and explosives undergo a chemical reaction that releases smoke and gases into the air. That includes carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen—three greenhouse gases that are unfortunately responsible for climate change. [Festive Fireworks Create Harmful Pall Of Pollution \(forbes.com\)](#)

As you may be aware there have been recent events in the news (in Toronto and in London):

Toronto police charged a 16-year-old boy that threw firecrackers from the bus into a crowd waiting at a bus stop. The same boy lit and threw a firecracker on the bus, and one person sustained minor injuries. One day later, on May 25, the same boy boarded a TTC bus in Scarborough's Guildwood neighbourhood, lit a firecracker and threw it. Police said the bus had to be evacuated due to smoke.

In a separate incident, in a 22-second video of the incident posted to Twitter, a teen is seen smiling as she lights a large firework in the middle of the bus. She points the firework at the back of the bus as riders crouch down, cover their heads and start screaming. This bus was at full capacity. Imagine the fear these people suffered that day.

A recent incident on June 18, 2023, at 114 Arbour Glen Crescent, London where a person shot firecrackers at a person in his apartment.

“Police suspected the unit could be on fire,” explained Jeff Collins, district chief of the LFD. “It upgraded, became on fire and then we made entry, applied agent and knocked fire down.” Residents were concerned about damage to their nearby apartments, and also were concerned about pets who were left behind when they evacuated. “There is a lot of water damage throughout the eleventh floor, but fire damage was the contained to the unit,” said Collins. “This actually did escalate from a small event into a large event.”

My question for you is, how many people have to be suffering before we, the residents of London, become more important than backyard fireworks? Do you have a number in mind?

It is time to take fireworks out of the hands of irresponsible people. On August 15, 2023, please implement Option B.

I'd like to submit my comments to the discussion about fireworks.

I definitely support option B.

In our neighborhood and surrounding area, people cannot abide by the current by-law and set off fireworks several days before and after the allowed date. I understand law enforcement cannot enforce the law as they can't be everywhere, so I believe consumer fireworks need to be banned completely from the city.

In my opinion, backyard fireworks are intrusive, and very possibly dangerous, and I believe that people who let them off outside the allowed times, are disrespectful to the law and their neighbors, and the holiday itself.

Fireworks in neighborhoods also upset wildlife, and family pets, and I can only imagine the stress it may cause those who have come from war torn countries, and vets. I really believe that there is just no place for these in a city that's trying to be inclusive. Leave them to the professionals who know how to do use them safely and within the law.

We don't need to burden our fire department with enforcing a bylaw that will continue to be abused.

Sincerely
Kate Rhodes

I have lived in London for over 20 years....I think this fireworks ban is crazy why are we letting all these complaining people rule the world.....we might as well ban all the fun ...what is 3 or 4 times a year really hurtwe have been having a Canada day party plus fireworks show for over 5 years everyone in the neighborhood comes out to enjoy it.....we have never had any issues or accidents we are safe and clean up after.....I just think letting all this people take away all the things people love is ridiculous....it's not goin to stop the teenagers from doing it....why don't we outlaw backyard parties nextlet's become the boring city with all the rules and take away from those who enjoy fireworks and want to share their enjoyment of them with their kids family and friends.

Tina Miller

If we must have fireworks,I favour option B. Ultimately we should be relegating fireworks to the history books. They are frightening and unnecessary in today's world.
Marian Robinson

Good morning,

Pertaining to the newly revised fireworks bylaw in review I would like to vote for option b.

Thank you,

Tyler

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Lisa Gebhardt

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,
PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

Mayor Morgan and Committee Members, I am writing to you today to ask you to vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

My sister and I have recently moved to London from Calgary, Alberta and were surprised to learn that backyard fireworks are still allowed in London. We moved to Calgary in 1974 (born in Toronto) backyard fireworks were not allowed in Calgary the entire time we lived there.

I have a 10-year-old dog, with very high anxiety, so anytime there are fireworks, I am up with her as she shakes uncontrollably and tries to hide. This continues until the fireworks stop, which can sometimes be as late as 12:00-1:00 am. Although, the by-law states that fireworks are only to be set off on Victoria Day, and Canada Day, we have found that people in our neighbourhood set them off not just on the two allowable days, but the entire weekend and the following weekdays.

With the amount of fires this season, and the poor air quality because of said fires, fireworks just add to the problem. The UN has just declared that we are in the era of "global boiling" no longer global warming, the chemicals released from fireworks is adding to this crisis, we must do our part to stop this.

We have been very lucky this year with the amount rain we have had, however, in the future, we may not be so lucky and it would only take one spark to burn down our forest city.

We are now more aware of the ramifications of fireworks, and what they are doing to our wild life, environment, and vulnerable sectors. There are more friendly ways to show our pride and excitement, including laser shows or drones.

Our neighbours in Woodstock, Brampton and Caledon have all successfully banned backyard fireworks, and now it is London's turn. So I ask you again, please vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Thank you for listening

Lisa Gebhardt

We live northeast, we heard fireworks 3 days before and 3 days after canada day, some at midnight, 2 or 3 am. There were also a few set off a week later. Besides my dog losing her mind for an hour when they go off, we really don't appreciate being awakened to the sound of explosions in the middle of the night. We called the police, and we emailed every city councillor about it. Obviously they're not able to do much about it. So, if you cannot enforce the law or bylaw you absolutely need to completely BAN neighborhood fireworks. Please go with Plan B - ban their sale and use for neighborhoods.

Thanks

Geoff Rhodes

Please add to agenda

Dear City Councillors

I would like to share my feedback on fireworks as changes to the bylaw are being examined.

I have lots of friends who are military veterans. None of them have mentioned to me any concerns with fireworks. One, who did 9 tours of Afghanistan before being honourably discharged due to a combat injury, went as far as to mention that the right to light off fireworks was the exact freedom he spent his time fighting for. Are there some veterans bothered by fireworks? Certainly. But not all.

I have lots of friends who are new Canadians. Some from war zones. They have mentioned feedback such as “communities coming together for activities such as firework shows make us feel more welcome”. Are there some who are bothered by fireworks? Certainly. Not all.

Some animals are bothered by fireworks, others don't even flinch. Like my golden retriever. So once again, not all.

Everyone's feedback matters when it comes to what is best for our community.

I don't like hearing fireworks every night for 10 days around the times where they're allowed to be sold in parking lots. I have young kids who need their sleep.

The current bylaw is fine. The enforcement of it from what I can tell is next to non-existent.

Either actually enforcing the bylaw as written moving forward, or changing it to approved “firework zones” if we want to be even more judicious in our limiting of choice, would be fine with me. If you're in an approved firework zone you could relocate for the night or even for the approved lighting window if it causes you or your pets harm.

But to outright ban them would just repeat the lessons we didn't learn in prohibition or the war on drugs. When there's a will, there's a way. Especially in the absence of consequences. So if you can ban them but you can drive just outside of the city limits, pick them up, and no one does anything when you light them off, then nothing changes other than the intensity of social media complaints.

I wish you the best of luck in this process and thank you for evaluating my feedback.

Thanks,

Jeremy McCall

Ward 11 resident and father of 3 human kids and a fur kid

Regarding the current review process for the Fireworks Bylaw:

Having read the staff report and having considered the Options being provided to Council, I am strongly in favour of **Option B** to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Option A is basically more of the same. The current Bylaw already provides direction for when fireworks are allowed and when they are not allowed. These regulations are being ignored today, and narrowing the allowable days for fireworks is not going to change current behaviours. While there is arguably an education and awareness problem today - i.e. lack of understanding that fireworks of when fireworks can be used - it is also arguable that someone lighting off fireworks at midnight in a residential area weeks before/after Canada Day probably has a sense that they should be doing those things. The issue we have today is mainly a lack of enforcement of the existing Bylaw due to lack of resources and the unique challenges of identifying individuals who are in violation of the Bylaw. Option A does not address the enforcement issue and, in fact, continues to rely on enforcement that does not exist to the extent needed.

Option B is a better direction for London to take fireworks out residential areas and rely on licensed expertise to use fireworks. Will this Option fully address the issue of illegal use of fireworks In London? No, it will not. We know that motivated consumers will find other ways to purchase fireworks by traveling outside of London and/or purchasing these material online. And we also know that enforcement of the Fireworks Bylaw will continue to be the problem that it is today due to lack of resources (and sometimes lack of interest) by enforcement officers. However, I feel that banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks will go a long way to minimizing the issues we have today - e.g. people purchasing fireworks at the corner store and lighting them off in city parks late a night. I would also argue that Option B is more (tangentially) aligned towards addressing the issue of climate change. We are experiencing Summer weather that is hotter and dryer due to climate change. The risk of starting fires through inexperienced consumer use of fireworks is higher than it has been in the past. Option B helps to minimize that risk, as well.

Many thanks...

Kevin Godin
35 Springett Court
London, ON

Re: The Vote on Fireworks

London had a poll on whether to ban backyard fireworks or not. But our city needs to think outside the box. There are other alternatives to allowing the untenable current situation to continue or curtailing people's enjoyment of our holidays.

Here is an informative link to the harm noisy fireworks cause and how cities in Canada are starting to convert to quieter options.

<https://www.cbc.ca/.../greener-alternatives-to-fireworks...>

Another option is to limit the sale of fireworks to those that do not make extremely loud noises. This may be the best alternative as a start.

<https://www.skybaconfireworks.com/.../5-low-noise...>



5 Low-Noise Fireworks

Quiet, silent, or low-noise fireworks you'll actually enjoy without disturbing your neighbors.

I realize that the thought of curtailing the celebration of our holidays is infuriating many people. However, we now know the harm these fireworks cause to pets and wildlife and to people with PTSD and others, and, in a reasonable, caring society, this cannot be allowed to continue. The above are excellent compromises.

Susan Ross
581 Elmdale Ave.

Hello,

Please see below. Thank you for reading.

Marc Hulet

In a perfect world, there would be no need for the enforcement of fireworks. However, we live in a world that is far from perfect - especially since the pandemic, which has arguably made people more aggressive, more self-centred, and less concerned about their neighbours. This is not 1985.

Just this past Canada Day, I witnessed new neighbours bringing two giant green garbage bags overflowing with fireworks and cases of beer into their backyard where they were clearly hosting people with the intention of setting them off that night — the night before Canada Day when fireworks were not allowed.

People don't care about the "allowed" dates for fireworks - explosions can be heard constantly throughout the long weekends - Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. This is why I believe fireworks should only be allowed in designated areas... if people would self-police themselves, this limitation would not be necessary but people cannot...

Almost every city around London has banned or is banning individual fireworks because people are behaving the same everywhere in Southwestern Ontario and beyond.

I know in my neighbourhood, we have elderly residents who go to bed early, we have young children and babies that go to bed early. Other people, young and old, have mental issues that are triggered by loud noises. We have many animals that are spooked by the loud noises. And we have shift workers like my wife who works at the hospital and, at times, has to be at work for 6AM on a weekend to help save lives — Do we really want all these people to be disrupted for three nights? Do we want them to not have proper sleep?

On a side note, going back to that night when the neighbours planned to set off fireworks on a banned date... it is incredibly frustrating trying to get someone to care about the enforcement of the existing fireworks bylaw. My contracts happened like this:

1. I reached out to the number on the city website that says enforces the illegal fireworks: The police non-emergency number. They told me not to call them and that they did not enforce the bylaw. The person (a dispatcher) refused to give me their name - even a first name. I was told to call the bylaw office or the non-emergency fire department line.
2. I called the bylaw number and it advised no one was monitoring the line outside of normal business hours but I could send an email - with no information about it being monitored or not, which seemed like a dead end and very poor communication by the city. I choose to do neither assuming both were unmonitored.
3. I called the non-emergency fire line advising of the issue and also that we live in a very heavily treed area that makes our neighbourhood a very risky area to set off fireworks — especially when it had been so dry. I was told they don't deal with it, and they gave me the same bylaw officer number that the police did and told me "They are actively monitoring this line and you will have no issues getting through to someone."
4. I called the number again and got the same message that it wasn't being monitored but that I could send an email (with no promise to do anything).

5. I sent an email. I got no auto-response advising it would be monitored and addressed within a certain SLA, or anything. It's a gaping hole of nothing, which is very disappointing for the city.

6. I do feel that someone from the bylaw office did visit as the party abruptly left clearly to go somewhere else and no fireworks were ever set off - that night or on Canada Day... they took their big bags of fireworks and cases of beer that they had brought just two hours earlier.

Dear London City Councillors et Al,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to you today to request your urgent attention and proactive consideration regarding an issue that deeply concerns me and many other residents of our beloved city. Specifically, I would like to discuss the environmental impact of fireworks and the need for thoughtful action to mitigate their negative consequences.

As we are all well aware, our planet is facing an unprecedented climate crisis. The recent forest fires that have devastated regions both locally and overseas serve as painful reminders of the urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our environment. This is a call to action that cannot be ignored.

It is with this backdrop in mind that I want to draw your attention to the negative effects fireworks have on our atmosphere and air quality, especially during times when the air is already compromised due to climate change-induced factors. The high levels of PM2.5 particle matter released during fireworks displays have detrimental consequences for our respiratory health, as indicated by increasing numbers of patients in hospital emergency rooms reporting respiratory issues, including collapsed lungs.

I strongly believe that it is the responsibility of our elected representatives to prioritize the health and well-being of our citizens and the preservation of our environment. Therefore, I kindly request that you consider putting forward a member's motion that would make this matter an agenda item for discussion and necessary action before the next fireworks event takes place in our city.

By engaging in an open and constructive dialogue, we can explore alternative methods to celebrate and mark special occasions without compromising the air we breathe or exacerbating our already fragile ecosystem. It is crucial that we seek innovative solutions and promote sustainable approaches that align with our commitment to tackling climate change head-on.

I implore you to be proactive in this matter and stand as leaders in the efforts to protect our planet and future generations. By taking immediate steps to address the environmental impact of fireworks, we can make a meaningful and positive difference.

I would also like to bring to your attention that Michael Luce post on "Nextdoor", shedding light on such an important issue such as the harmful effects of fireworks to the environment.

My response: It's truly alarming to see the negative effects fireworks can have on our atmosphere, especially when we're already experiencing drastic air quality deterioration due to climate change-induced forest fires.

It is disheartening that while we received assistance from firefighters coming all the way from Africa, we often overlook the need to reduce our own carbon footprint. The increase in respiratory patients and cases of collapsed lungs, as reported by hospital emergency rooms, is a clear sign that we need to take action.

Dr. David Kaiser's, medical director of Montreal point about fireworks contributing to PM2.5 of 300 particle matter per cubic meter further exemplifies the need for us to reevaluate our choices and priorities. Perhaps it's time to ask ourselves some difficult questions in order to protect our planet and preserve the wellbeing of our fellow human beings.

Let's come together and explore alternative methods to celebrate occasions without compromising the already fragile air we breathe such as drone and laser light show and use that as an opportunity to educate people of their collaborative effort to change. Our planet's health and the health of future generations depend on it.

#ProtectOurPlanet #ReducingOurCarbonFootprint #ReconsiderFireworks

Sharon Deebrah (She/Her), MPA

Please add this letter to the agenda:

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Use of Fireworks and Health Effects

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my concerns about the usage of fireworks and their potential impact on various aspects of our community. I would like to draw attention to scientific facts related to the health consequences, as well as the fear it presents to both pets and immigrants who have experienced the ravages of war.

Firstly, let us address the scientific facts regarding the adverse health effects of fireworks. Fireworks produce smoke and pollutants that can be harmful to human health, particularly for individuals with existing respiratory conditions or sensitivities. The fine particulate matter released during fireworks displays can exacerbate symptoms, causing respiratory distress and potential long-term health issues.

Moreover, the loud noises and sudden flashes of lights from fireworks often induce fear and anxiety in pets. This is a well-documented concern, as many animals experience heightened levels of stress during fireworks displays, which can lead to not only temporary distress but also long-term behavioral issues.

In addition to considering the local health implications, it is crucial to acknowledge the concerns surrounding fireworks displays and their potential impact on immigrants from war-stricken parts of the world. The loud explosions and visual resemblance to artillery fire can trigger traumatic memories for those who have been through war or other conflicts. By minimizing the use of fireworks, we can create a more inclusive environment that prioritizes the mental well-being of all members of our community.

Lastly, I would like to address the irony in our participation in annual fireworks displays, particularly in the context of firefighters coming from Africa to assist in fighting forest fires. It can be viewed as contradictory to invite individuals from abroad to help us combat environmental challenges, only to engage in an activity that contributes to atmospheric pollution. By reevaluating our dependence on fireworks, we can better align our actions with our commitment towards environmental stewardship.

I sincerely believe that by taking these concerns into consideration, we can work towards a community that is respectful of both human and animal well-being, as well as sensitive to the experiences and backgrounds of our diverse residents. I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and encourage further conversation on possible alternatives for celebrating events without the use of fireworks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sharon Deebrah

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee
From: Shari Liggett
Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I realize asking for a total ban on backyard fireworks is a hard sell. Please consider why I feel I have no alternative. Often, I hear a week's worth of fireworks for every holiday, plus some random days which may relate to other culture's holidays? Often, these occur beyond the evening hours (say, midnight through to 2am). I know our overwhelmed police department is not going to respond to a call about fireworks, and I would not call out the local fire department either. So, what is my option for getting this behaviour resolved? I am supposed to go out, alone, in the middle of the night to confront these people? Take a photo? How am I supposed to find out who they are, to make a complaint after the fact to someone at city hall? Do you really think that will solve my problem? These people have the attitude that they can do what they want, when they want, and we just have to "put up with it for a few days". Every year there are accidents because we observe daylight savings time. Imagine how alert I am, driving to work at 7am, when I have been awakened at midnight and again at 1am and again at 2am by some people "having fun", night after night. When I was young, living in another city, we were only allowed to have sparklers. No big noises disrupting sleep, no big noises sending pets running out of yards into the night, no bits of fireworks leftovers smoldering on people's lawns and on their roofs. (Yes, I have had this happen to my home.) The city of my childhood had public fireworks, and that was enough. We had fun in our backyards with sparklers. It would be even better if London had public displays of "quiet" fireworks, but I am sorely afraid you will bow to the people who don't care about others, wildlife, pets nor the environment itself.

I ask that the Mayor and Committee Member vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law - to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

I realize that those entitled people will continue to illegally purchase and use fireworks, but perhaps there will be a better chance for enforcement if this ban is passed.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Shari Liggett

101 Honeysuckle Crescent
London, Ontario
N5Y 4P5

Community and Protective Services Committee

I would like to address the proposal to ban the sale and discharge of family fireworks in London.

The committee possible looking at fireworks being ignited in back yards. In fact fireworks are a very social fabric of the City of London.

I have sold fireworks for 33 years in London. I go once a year to a street party, that includes approximately 20 homes. The neighbors very seldom see or talk to each other, but once a year, they all get together, bring out the BBQ's and enjoy fireworks. I had a gentleman at my location, he informed me that 100 London's were going to a function and everyone had to bring one item.

As well I have many customers inform me when they purchase fireworks, that they plan on inviting their neighbors over.

Fireworks should be looked at as part of the fabric which is London. Fireworks brings communities, neighbors, family and friends together, even if is just one day a year.

To ban fireworks in London, I feel would be a great loss to the committee, that can never be reversed.

I would like the committee to look at fireworks, as an article that brings people together in this great city of London, Ontario.



Bill McClement

500 Osgoode Dr, Unit 86
London, Ontario, N6E 2G9

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Celine Poirier, Westminster, Ward 14

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

Item : PPM, Fireworks By-law Review

Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

Thank-you for taking into consideration the effect of fireworks on our city. In the past few years fireworks in Westminster have become an increasingly common occurrence not only on the holidays but on other days. Most fireworks discharged here contravene at least one bylaw. However, these contradictory and confusing bylaws are rarely enforced, which seems to account for increased brazenness among the citizens. Therefore I ask you to vote for **Option B : to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.**

Any citizen conscientious enough to read the bylaws can then see that effectively, there are nearly no safe and allowable contexts in which to discharge fireworks. Most fire departments in Ontario say as much. Unfortunately, the preliminary caution promoted on some websites is absent on the city of London Fire department. Here is a quote from Brantford :

The Brantford Fire Department along with the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office recommend that citizens attend public firework displays put on by certified technicians that are trained to handle and discharge them safely.

On the other hand, any observer of what is happening in Westminster today would likely come to the conclusion that there is no bylaw contravening the discharge of consumer fireworks anywhere, anytime as long as you can purchase them.

Here is an overview of the bylaws and how they are overlooked in Westminster.

Bylaw PW 11, 5.5

(5) No person shall discharge any consumer fireworks in such a manner as might create danger or constitute a nuisance to any person or property

35 feet are recommended for the low fountain fireworks, and 70 feet for the high ones. Given the modest size of the yards where the single family homes are themselves only 10-30 feet apart, this is well nigh impossible on any one's personal property. Duplexes and townhomes, where adequate distancing from the neighbours is even less possible, constitute a significant percentage of the homes in this area. People who discharge fireworks on their property are within 10 to 25 feet of a house, and even closer to trees and shrubs.

Bylaw PW 11, 5.7

(7) No person shall discharge any consumer fireworks in or on or into any park, highway, street, lane, square or other public place, unless under a display fireworks permit to do so issued by the Fire Chief.

The fireworks in Westminster are most often discharged in the public areas such as the sandbox in the school yard. Thankfully these people have the common sense to stay away from houses, but they are contravening Bylaw 5.7. Others launch firecrackers into the street, over the roofs of the neighbouring houses. How terribly frightening. We were very alarmed at one such display in May 2021 on Woodrow Cres, just behind our complex.

In addition to these most frequent transgressions, I have witnessed an entire fireworks display organized by citizens in Nicholas Wilson park in July 2020 for Canada Day. No permit was obtained from the city for this ad hoc event. This runs contrary to

PW 1.5. (1) No person shall discharge consumer fireworks except: (d) as part of a display of display fireworks for which a permit has been obtained and for which all conditions and requirements of the permit have been met; or at such other times and such other dates as permitted by Council by by-law

Most fireworks discharged in public parks are not cleaned up, but are left to cool in the grass. Citizens typically do not return to remove the refuse once it has cooled. Many also leave the discarded cases. This transgresses the city's dumping bylaw. *PW 2.6 Dumping – prohibited – without lawful authority No person shall throw, place, dump or deposit refuse on private property or City property without lawful authority.* In this day and age when the city is grappling with its garbage problem, when our water ways are increasingly polluted, where wild life is struggling to stay alive in the urban landscape, and where even many of our citizens have no other choice but to sleep outside, allowing consumers to leave fireworks litter in our natural spaces reflects a wonton neglect of the natural areas.

While I was out on a walk in the neighbourhood one year ago, a man set off a firecracker in the middle of the street. The firework being impossible to secure on the pavement, he held it as it discharged. He nearly pointed it at me, but corrected the direction at the very last minute. I am not sure I could have escaped the firework hitting me if he hadn't made that sudden change. It being dusk, he hadn't seen me right away.

Children are the primary audience for fireworks. They are observing fireworks from an unsafe distance at the very least. It is quite impossible, with the numerous locations of fireworks displays, and the absence of enforcement officers, to adequately assure that bylaw PW 11 5.3 is being respected.

Fireworks are being discharged increasingly outside of the mandated times. On Victoria Day Weekend 2021 we heard fireworks on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings. It is not uncommon to hear fireworks in the week leading up or the week following a designated fireworks holiday. This is in violation of PW 11 5. a, b, c. For those suffering from PTSD, for birds, cats, and other animals, and anyone nervous or anxious, this creates an ambiance of continual arousal which can be deleterious to one's health.

Dear Mayor and Council members, Citizens are confused by the precedent that they see : fireworks for sale in obvious places across the city, and fireworks discharged liberally in neighbourhoods, yards and school yards. Allowing citizens to buy fireworks without a permit when most of them do not have the adequate means to deploy them safely sends a confusing message. The nearly complete lack of enforcement creates an aura of permissiveness. The city by-law officers are impossible to find on Canada Day or Victoria day because the by-law office is closed.

I have wandered other parts of the city enough to observe that the licentiousness in Westminster is not isolated to our neighbourhood. It would cost the city a lot of money to police this bylaw properly. Upwards of 90% of the fireworks displayed in the city would be banished if such policing were 100% successful. It is much simpler to banish the sale of consumer fireworks and to fine the retailers who do not comply. This would bring clarity to the situation.

Banning the sale of consumer fireworks sends the message to all of Londoners that the stillness of our natural spaces and the beauty of our wide open fields is respected and honoured. It shows respect also for the firefighters who are valiantly combatting, at great risk to themselves, the record high number of forest fires devastating our country. Let's stand in solidarity with those communities who had to cancel all fireworks displays this season because of the risk of starting another forest fire. Let's not wait for an open fire ban in our city. Let's ban fireworks for the many other reasons that they are deleterious to our community.

Dear Council members, increased conscientiousness on the part of all citizens is needed urgently. I urge you to begin this process by **banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks** in the city of London.

Sincerely,

Celine Poirier

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services

Committee

From: Ken patpatia

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

PPM, Fireworks By-law Review] on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

i am pleased to write you this note and my opinion that fireworks are not necessary to celebrate any event!

Not only does it create pollution, it's dangerous and causes fire, many injuries and deaths. Our dear city, provincial and federal gov. pick the tab in the financial aspect but scars are left on an individual for life.

Who are we helping in this, foreign countries who make these things and get richer at our expense.

Solution, if somebody likes to celebrate something, there are sports, dancing, singing, playing and comedy events can be arranged. Why do we pollute our dear environment which is on the brink of disaster. There are already 8 billion people on this planet and if everyone does fireworks every now and then can you believe what would happen to our environment.

I strongly advise banning fireworks from our community so at least we can live in a peaceful and a clean environment.

By doing this you will set an example to other cities and become one of the heroes and savior of the human kind.

THank you,

For option #2, NO Fireworks in the city of london!

--

Best Regards,

Ken Patpatia

BROKER

9 glenridge cres. london ont

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee
From: Sophia Alexopoulos
Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM,
Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

The use of fireworks is known to cause distress to countless numbers of people and animals, both wild and domestic, and is rapidly becoming an antiquated form of celebration. It is documented that the noise and bright lights cause distress for many animals, including birds, squirrels, frogs, and fish, and can seriously endanger them and their young. These animals, among others, can flee their homes in fear of the fireworks and abandon their offspring, become disoriented and fly into buildings, flee into territory in which they are not able to survive, or simply die of heart failure. It is barbaric to continue to cause this kind of devastation to so many innocent animals for a few minutes of our pleasure.

Domesticated pets also suffer during the explosions due to the noise affecting their sensitive ears and I know many dogs struggle with this, mine included. I have a golden retriever who paces, drools, and shakes uncontrollably every time anyone sets off fireworks and unfortunately there are many people in our area who do it frequently, and late into the night.

There are also many people who suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and autism who are negatively affected by the overwhelming sights and sounds of fireworks. Not to mention babies and small children who can be very sensitive to noise, especially in the evening when they are trying to sleep or perhaps already colicky.

I would be remiss not to mention the environmental impact the use of fireworks has on our ecosystem, and the damage it causes to our air quality as well as the litter their debris creates.

Many people all around the world are beginning to acknowledge the devastating impact fireworks can have and are choosing to opt for the use of drones instead, thereby allowing people to still gather and celebrate in a way that does not cause death, destruction, or distress for anyone or anything that happens to be nearby. As a society we are becoming more aware of the negative impact we as humans can have on each other, animals, and our environment, and it is time we look to the future and move toward making the world a more safe and comfortable place for everyone, one little step at a time.

In summary, I ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Thank You,

Sophia Alexopoulos

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Christine Wilson

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

I am a social worker who works for a social service agency in our city, so I hope that you can understand why my request comes from a place of deep concern for the mental health of my fellow citizens of London. I work directly with our friends, family and neighbours who are experiencing significant mental health challenges daily, and backyard fireworks are an unnecessary contributor to these challenges. We all know that fireworks are incredibly loud, but the unpredictable nature of these bangs are the issue. Part of the allure of fireworks is this sense of excitement and anticipation that is brought about by the loud, unexpected bangs. However, these unpredictable bangs can cause a person who is not expecting it to go in to fight or flight; a very distressing and destabilizing state which the body reserves for emergencies. And for folks experiencing mental health struggles like PTSD who often exist in a state of high anxiety, this is very easily done. Fireworks, particularly unplanned, backyard fireworks, cause incredible distress to these folks that I work with. And these people are not strangers, these are people we all know; they are our friends and our neighbours. And you have the ability to end this unseen battle they face every single long weekend.

A ban on backyard fireworks would eliminate a big part of this element of unpredictability; folks can plan accordingly knowing what time to expect a city sanctioned, planned fireworks display. They know when it starts, when it plans to end, and where it is. It makes the whole thing so much more manageable, and it can truly save lives.

If you could see the distress these backyard fireworks endlessly being set off over a long weekend can cause, you wouldn't think twice about voting for option B. For the sake of the thousands of us who suffer with mental health challenges, I ask again that you please consider voting for option B to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks in London.

Sincerely,

Christine Wilson (RSW)

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Julianne K. First

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Chair Pelozza, Mayor Morgan and Committee Members:

I am writing this letter today to ask that you please vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Fireworks are harmful on so many different levels and they are out of control in the City of London with people very regularly setting them off on random days/nights that are not holidays. This has been very well documented and established. They cause major stress, anxiety and fear for household pets like cats and dogs, they cause wildlife to become disoriented and abandon their nests (and their babies), birds and bees get disoriented and some end up dead.

Fireworks, especially personal backyard fireworks, are incredibly inconsiderate and traumatizing. They sound like bombs/guns going off and all of the neighbours who live within earshot of a particular backyard have absolutely no say in the matter. They are simply forced to endure the extremely loud and stress-inducing sounds for however many hours their neighbour decides to set off their fireworks.

On a personal level, I have two wonderful rescue dogs who experience tremendous stress, fear and panic during fireworks. I have tried everything to mitigate the terrifying situation for them -- "thunder jackets" that are made for dogs, trying to block our windows/doors to muffle the sounds (it doesn't work, fireworks are far too loud to block), herbal "calming" supplements, prescription drugs from our veterinarian and trying to carefully and slowly "desensitize" them to the sound of fireworks. Nothing works! They continue to endure massive stress and panic every time fireworks are detonated. My dogs are family and it's heartbreaking and frustrating to feel helpless and unable to console a terrified family member. I am just one of thousands of London dog owners who feel this way.

Fireworks are a very popular and traditional way of celebrating the holidays, yes, but we need to be willing to change our ways when the cons so drastically outweigh any pros. It's important that we don't get stuck in our ways when so much harm is being done. There are safer and kinder ways to celebrate the holidays (including drone shows and laser light shows, music, dancing, BBQs, etc).

The goal is not to stop celebrations. The goal is to modernize celebrations to be more environmentally friendly and more inclusive.

Bans are not always 100% perfect (please tell me - what is in life?) but bans will stop impulse purchases. And, I believe a consumer ban on sales will greatly reduce impulse purchases and will be easier to enforce than a by-law that allows for several days of fireworks. Bans do work!

It's really important to keep in mind that there are far better alternatives to fireworks, such as laser light shows and drone shows which are being used with great success in Canada and all over the world. Now that we know better, we need to do better. Humans have been evolving, changing and adapting their ways since the beginning of time. We are very capable of progressing and making positive changes!

Again, I ask you to please vote Option B to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks in the City of London.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,
Julianne K. First

To the City clerk's office:

August 3, 2023

This feedback is in response to the City of London's Notice of Public Participation meeting with regard to public and private firework displays in the city.

- As it stands now, members of the public are permitted to buy and set off fireworks in their backyards or in other open spaces like school yards which is clearly in contravention of the city by-laws. Unfortunately, many people are doing so on prohibited days and or times which causes undue stress and frustration for other people in the neighbourhood. People who choose to do so are well aware that there aren't any consequences for their actions as it is too complicated to catch them in the act to enforce the by-law.
- The fact that people ignore the fireworks by-law, shows disrespect and thoughtlessness for the peace and safety of their neighbourhood. They also risk injuring themselves or setting off a fire in the area where they are using the fireworks and cause excessive noise for those around them. It is very unfair that those of us who are not interested in fireworks must endure the consequences (i.e. excessive noise and smell) of those who defend the right to set off fireworks in the neighbourhood. We often hear fireworks being set off unlawfully at Clara Brenton Public School.
- It's hard to understand why the city allows fireworks in neighbourhoods at the displeasure of those in the majority who are opposed to them and begrudgingly must put up with this disturbance.
- The sound of fireworks can be terrifying for animals and people who have suffered war-time trauma in their homeland. This is a serious concern that needs to be discussed when looking at the fireworks by-law.
- If there are to be fireworks at all, they should be displayed in a controlled, professionally run event. Those who wish to enjoy the display can attend such an event and this will considerably reduce the noise in most neighbourhoods and the need to call the hotline to complain about those who are setting off fireworks in contravention of the by-law.

- Our first preference, however, would be to eliminate fireworks completely and to switch to a laser light show that has been used effectively in events in Toronto, Hamilton, Brampton, Guelph, the Peterborough area and even Niagara Falls. This would allow everyone to celebrate the holiday without the issues associated with fireworks.

In conclusion, we are hoping the city will move to laser light shows to permanently replace all fireworks displays so that all Londoners' enjoyment of the holidays will be taken into consideration moving forward.

Sincerely, Nana and Sergio Tirolese

Greetings Mayor Morgan, all city councillors, including CPSC members, Matt Hepditch and Cheryl Smith,

Attn: Ms. Bunn please see that this letter is added to the Agenda for the August 15, 2023 CPSC meeting.

It is my understanding that after the Fireworks PPM on August 15, the CPSC will take a vote and make a recommendation to council on how to proceed or not with any change(s) to how fireworks are administered in London.

Prior to moving forward and doing so -

I think it is important to pause, remember, and reflect and take into account the fact that -

41.3% of the fireworks survey participants want a complete ban on fireworks in London.

And an additional 8.5% were "not sure whether they would or wouldn't support a full ban"

meaning they would likely be amenable to same once implemented.

It therefore is **incumbent upon each and everyone of you on council** (and those who have provided input and so far offered only 2 options by writing and signing off on the report) to in addition to option 2 (aka B) to **seriously discuss and consider the so called 3rd option of a complete ban on fireworks - which would mean the city would also no longer issue permits for any fireworks displays.**

Said 3rd option was, astonishingly and to the dismay of the many who have advocated against fireworks in London, not included in the Fireworks report tabled to CPSC on June 13, 2023.

The following is only very brief recap summary of the multiple, very well documented negative issues that come part and parcel with any fireworks whatsoever including fire department permitted displays:

1. **Pollution** - serious deterioration of air quality ie. inflated PM 2.5 particulate matter, the same stuff we experienced in a stifling way from woodsmoke pollution plus dangerous chemical residue and heavy metal contamination which are additionally affecting water (eg. Thames River and creeks) and soil which becomes a repository for the toxic fallout when gravity returns it the earth, often sadly where food is grown and wildlife feed.

2. **Excess noise** - that is proven to be extremely detrimental to our **entire range of wildlife**

(reminder it is illegal in Ontario to disrupt nesting birds)

and yet we know that is precisely what happens when fireworks are happening.

3. **Pets** - how many first hand accounts from pet owners about how terrified and unsettled their pets become during and after fireworks of any kind, sometimes even for weeks after as a result do we need to hear?

when do we as a society or governing body realize that enough is enough?

4. **People** - anyone with PTSD, war veterans, those experiencing anxiety, stress, are in need of undisturbed sleep, refugees from any number of war torn countries, pregnant women, babies, and young children - what about them?

does our hubris for a few minutes of spectacle, entertainment, enjoyment, pleasure, tradition, cultural significance take precedence over our the previously mentioned fellow citizens who may be and often are adversely affected by fireworks?

5. **GHG emissions - the city has an emergency climate plan CEAP**, or so we are told.

how can it possibly not be a very good idea to set an example for Londoners, and other communities worldwide, that London city council takes the fast unfolding, greatest existential threat to humankind seriously by taking this golden opportunity to completely ban fireworks?

You might wonder what to do if fireworks are no longer permitted?

How does the community still come together to be entertained (for example) on a July 1 Canada holiday?

One of the solutions (creative thinking leads to others) that is being employed by several communities already including, Wakefield, Winnipeg, and Waterloo are **drone light shows**.

Across the U.S. they are also **opting for drone shows instead of fireworks** this year to celebrate the Fourth of July in Salt Lake City, Boulder, and Lake Tahoe **citing the impact traditional pyrotechnics have on the environment**. What they are all doing is **substituting loud, bombastic rockets with quieter, environmentally-friendly drones**.

Ah, but that seems very expensive, isn't it? Must be?

The Fireworks report quoted a range of \$17K for a 50 drone show to \$196K for a 500 drone show.

A much more realistic number of drones and dollar figure that would be comparative to London's July 1 fireworks show according to dronelightshow.ca is 150 drones for \$35K. Or, for an even larger (more elaborate) show 200 drones for \$40K.

For perspective, Winnipeg used 100 drones and Waterloo used 200 drones for their July 1 drone light shows in lieu of fireworks.

In summary, while London might spend on a Canada Day drone light show approximately double ie. \$35K to \$40K what their fireworks show costs ie. recently \$19K assuming that includes insurance, with so many benefits and multiple upsides, it would certainly seem very worthwhile to spend a bit more.

But, it doesn't by any stretch require spending \$196K to make it happen in a memorable and very satisfactory way.

Again as per **DroneLightshow.ca** - their non-Canada day prices would be slightly lower.

The cost includes everything such as transportation, logistic, design, permission from Transport Canada, insurance and music file. (note: I have absolutely zero financial interest in any drone show company whatsoever).

Drones can fly for up to 18 mins. and would require a space like a large park with a minimum of 30x30 metres for take-off.

Check.

In summary, there is nothing standing in the way of London doing what **Mont-Tremblant ironically did only days after London's Fireworks's report was issued. Their council banned all fireworks - period.**

On Canada Day here is how Mont-Tremblant promoted their celebration activities. Just imagine a celebration *without* having to breathe highly polluted air as the price of admission.

"Enjoy the fresh air for Canada day.

Animation and special activities will be organized in honor of our national holiday: public entertainers, face painting, raising of the Canadian flag, cake tasting and concert will delight the whole family."

I know it is a bad pun, but council making positive change doesn't have to be *rocket science*, especially when said *rockets* are excessively noisy, disruptive, highly polluting, and way past their best before date given what we all already know. Note to self - the Earth is in crisis and people and wildlife are in a fragile state.

I urge each and everyone who might provide input or is voting to do their part in bringing London into the present ie. into the forefront of ending our decades long fireworks addiction by agreeing to a third option ie. no fireworks.

You won't be the first to do so, as it has already been done elsewhere - and there is about to be a domino effect everywhere.

So why not, since the opportunity is literally in your hands right now,
help lead the way,
instead of continuing to force us to be stuck in the past with fireworks.

The people have spoken and are now waiting on your best judgement.

The voiceless and the environment and all that entails are counting on you to
step up and do the right thing.

thank you for reading,

Michael Luce

To: Chair Pelozza, and Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Becca Amendola

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Fireworks By-Law Review on the Agenda

Hello Chair Pelozza, and CPSC Committee Members,

I am writing to you as one of the co-founders of the grassroots group Londoners for Quiet Fireworks to address the topic of fireworks and the City of London's Fireworks By-Law. The main purpose of my letter is to provide facts, data, and information to supplement my brief, 5-minute delegation in which I will be requesting that the committee **choose Option B** within the proposed by-law changes to **ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks** in London.

I believe the banning of consumer fireworks is a good start towards London modernizing future celebrations to be more mindful of the harmful impacts that fireworks have on the environment, people, pets, and wildlife alike.

As you know, the City of London declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan in the spring of 2022. This plan necessitates that the Council view all public events and celebrations through the lens of its Climate Emergency Screening Tool and events with fireworks should be no exception. We know that traditional fireworks contain toxic metals and harmful chemical components that pollute our environment and that those pollutants accumulate over time in both soil and water¹. This means that these chemical pollutants do not dissipate over time once they have been put into the environment. Each year a fireworks show is hosted in the same location (ex. the Forks of the Thames) the toxicity levels of all nearby waters and soils get higher than the year before.

This summer, London has had multiple air quality warnings due to the smoke from wildfires north of us, particularly in the days leading up to Canada Day. It was disappointing that the Council did not take the Climate Emergency Screening Tool into consideration at that time by discussing cancelling the City's fireworks display in light of those poor air quality reports. As global temperatures continue to increase, the issue of droughts, wildfires, and poor air quality will also continue to increase. Thus, we need to act now and be mindful of every action we're taking to worsen the issue, no matter how big or small!

A huge concern with the City's Canada Day fireworks celebrations in particular is that they are held over the Forks of the Thames.

"It was originally thought that perchlorate in fireworks would not be an issue since it supposedly would be burned in the air, but studies done in Oklahoma and Massachusetts have found significant levels of the chemical in lakes and groundwater,

¹ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10661-014-3921-4>

*primarily following firework shows.*²

Perchlorate can accumulate in our drinking water and at high levels, it disrupts thyroid function and the related hormones that are essential for normal development. Even at lower levels exposed fetuses, infants, and young children are at risk of developing hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer. This is only the tip of the iceberg regarding the negative impacts that fireworks fallout can have on human health. The heavy metals and toxic particulates that fireworks are composed of are known to damage human cells and animal lungs. A doctor with the NYU Grossman School of Medicine states, “**Although people are only exposed to these substances for a short time each year, they are much more toxic than the pollutants we breathe every day.**”³

What's more, the excessive noise is incredibly disruptive and triggering to individuals with various mental health struggles such as complex post-traumatic stress disorder, autism, or other sensory processing disorders.⁴ As a sanctuary city for refugees from war-torn countries, I think we should be much more considerate of the negative impacts fireworks have on people who are sensitive to sudden, loud noises. Especially when the loud noises are intended to last for extended periods of time the way a fireworks show is designed to do.

In terms of wildlife, many mothering birds and animals around waterways frequently abandon their young when fleeing from the excessive noises and can sometimes get burned and/or killed by fireworks themselves as they flee.⁵ In this regard, fireworks over the Thames are a huge threat not only to London's wildlife and people, but also to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Delaware Nation, and Munsee Delaware Nation because they are all downstream from London. The toxic output from fireworks burned over the Thames River is a matter that falls within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and the Shared Waters Approach.⁶ With the knowledge that city fireworks shows are hosted over water that later flows into indigenous communities, it is the obligation of the council to practise “meaningful consultations, and obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples”⁷ before executing future shows because the fireworks fallout will inevitably impact their waters on reserve. Thus, if the city is going to persist with excessively toxic fireworks shows to celebrate Canada Day or any other day then the reserves should be consulted in advance to address how London can be accountable for the toxic fallout that is produced by those events.

I understand that some councillors believe there are other, larger pollutants and social issues that we should be worried about instead. However, the fact that bigger issues exist, doesn't automatically make it acceptable to ignore the environmental harms of smaller issues such as fireworks. Are we not able to focus our energies on more than one topic that affects us and our environment? If this issue is so small, why can't we acknowledge the scientifically proven toxic

2 <https://www.sustainablebizconsulting.com/blog/toxic-chemicals-in-fireworks-might-want-to-hold-your-breath>

3 <https://nyulangone.org/news/common-fireworks-release-lead-copper-other-toxic-metals-air#:~:text=Along%20with%20lead%2C%20titanium%2C%20strontium,Gordon>

4 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1088357613475810>

5 http://www.meteo.fr/cic/meetings/2012/ERAD/extended_abs/NMUR_064_ext_abs.pdf

6 <https://www.thamesrevival.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SharedWatersApproach-Dec2019finaldraft.pdf>

7 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

and deadly impacts on the environment and rectify those issues by simply banning the use and sale of consumer fireworks so that we can be done with the matter and thus move on to those bigger issues? Shouldn't we at least try to improve where we can as a municipality?

Some councillors believe that a ban won't work because they assume people will just drive outside of the city to buy fireworks. A similar rebuttal was offered in resistance to the cosmetic pesticide ban but it has been successfully implemented and since massively reduced the toxins going into our soils every year. The pesticide ban is an example that was in fact so successful that many other municipalities started adopting it, eventually leading to the implementation of a province-wide ban. Even if some people insistently buy fireworks outside of the city and violate the bylaw, implementing a ban will still definitely curb impulse purchases, thus undoubtedly reducing the toxins put into the environment by fireworks each year.

The proposal of a fireworks ban is not a new concept. There are many other Canadian cities and municipalities that have successfully implemented a fireworks ban. Some examples close by include Caledon and Brampton. Caledon began considering a ban in 2018 due to safety and environmental concerns, moving forward with a consumer ban in 2021, and has since shared evidence that it appears to be working. Please consider this statement from the Mayor of Caledon, who recently said, "We received five emails and nine phone calls over the Victoria Day weekend to report personal fireworks activity. That is a **marked improvement** over previous years."⁸ It's worth also noting that Woodstock's city council has just recently passed a motion for a ban on the detonation and sales of consumer fireworks back in mid-July. Their fire department is currently drafting that ban. Additionally, there are multiple locations in western Canada that have had a ban on consumer fireworks in place for multiple years such as Banff, Alberta, and the district of Sicamous in British Columbia.

I know that some councillors are also concerned that a consumer ban on fireworks will not be enforceable because the City lacks the amount of staff required to enforce a ban. If the bans in Caledon and Brampton are any indication, we will likely require less involvement with the LFD and By-law Office, not more. However, it should be taken into consideration that the City hasn't been able to enforce the current by-law either. A consumer fireworks ban is much more cut and dry than the current by-law so it's reasonable to assume that preventing **all** consumer fireworks from being sold locally will make enforcement much more cut and dry as well.

Right now, many people don't understand when or even where fireworks are permitted or prohibited. With a complete ban on consumer fireworks, Londoners will then know that **any** backyard show is prohibited. Further, many don't know how or where to report violations. This could be seen in the data collected through Google Forms by the Londoners for Quiet Fireworks group between May and July of this year (2023). Through this data collection the group had over a hundred Londoners report that they have experienced fireworks detonated nearby at a time and/or on a date when fireworks were not permitted. Of these reports, only about 5% knew where to report the violations to the city.⁹ It's reasonable to expect that a consumer ban would

⁸ <https://www.caledon.ca/en/news/fireworks-bylaw-helps-ease-complaints.aspx>

⁹ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UrevEeIFamM5Wqghuw6yJM_W8kPwecssDxKj1TT1eU/edit

lead to information about where to report violations spreading much faster among groups as the conversation about the ban also spreads.

Some councillors may be concerned that a consumer ban on fireworks will eliminate a legal industry that creates jobs in our city. With this, I'd like to remind the Committee members that it is not your responsibility to ensure that local businesses keep up with the times. When a smoking ban in restaurants and bars came into effect, people complained that a ban would have a negative impact on businesses and that there would be a loss of revenue. But in reality, businesses adapted and thrived as they always do when things change. What's more, some municipalities have since implemented even stricter smoking bans than the one created by the province, further demonstrating its effectiveness without negatively impacting business revenues. Some fireworks companies like NorthStar Fireworks and Drones Shows, started adapting to the changing times a number of years ago. Formerly, they were a business that provided fireworks only, but now they have grown their business to include drone shows as well.¹⁰ So there is no reason that other local fireworks business cant follow suit with NorthStar.

You will hear more concerns like the ones mentioned in this letter at the public participation meeting from residents who have learned about the harmful impact of fireworks and would like the city to make a change for the better. Contrary to the beliefs of some councillors, we are not a minority, a "special interests" group. We represent at least half of all Londoners who want stronger regulations against fireworks in the form of a ban on **ALL** consumer fireworks. Many of these residents would also like to see the city celebrations switch to environmentally-friendly forms of light shows such as lasers or drones. Drones in particular are significantly more renewable and can be seen from farther away than lasers or fireworks which means they can be enjoyed by even more people across the city.

Please consider this video of Waterloo's Canada Day drone show for 2023:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8eRZQJ1rRc>

This is Waterloos drone show for last year (2022):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWZyM2UiB18>

Please also consider this video of a laser shows:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HehU8s6kg-k>

We all know that celebrations bring us together as a community. The desire to end traditional fireworks isn't about stopping celebrations but rather a call to modernize our celebrations. We need to be more mindful of our responsibility to adopt the calls to action within the Truth and Reconciliation report AND switch to more environmentally-friendly means of celebrating. How can the average Londoner be expected to participate in and subscribe to the recommendations

10

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/fed-up-with-fireworks-maybe-it-s-time-to-fly-up-the-drones-1.6871034?fbclid=IwAR1Bzme-Q_GuxHkaddu_gQRsBN0wX3O3CRRoXYmH7OZAbezcbPnoilDpmOk

within the Climate Emergency Action Plan (e.g. Londoners are advised to reduce their transportation impacts by switching to an electric vehicle, a hybrid vehicle, or a very fuel efficient one, and making their home more energy efficient and resilient to severe weather¹¹), if the City fails to do something as simple as look for less-harmful alternatives to a means of celebration that has been scientifically proven to be toxic (i.e. fireworks)?

I will be directly emailing this document to all CPSC council members but I would also like to include it here for the record. This is a summary of all of the research mentioned in this letter, as well as information on where consumer fireworks bans have been implemented, and environmentally friendly alternatives to fireworks:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hPfhNoEaQeQPgsP9MHY3_01DMNC7VEBRp1F6I_0yrwA/edit?usp=sharing

In conclusion, once again, I kindly urge you to adopt **Option B** of the proposed fireworks by-law and **ban all consumer fireworks** in London as a means of prioritizing safety and quality of life for both Londoners now, as well as Londoners of future generations. Brampton, Calendon, and even Woodstock have recognized the need for consumer fireworks bans, as have areas in western Canada as well. London should be no exception.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Becca Amendola
Social Work Student
Co-Founder of Londoners for Quiet Fireworks

¹¹ <https://london.ca/living-london/water-environment/londons-climate-emergency-declaration>

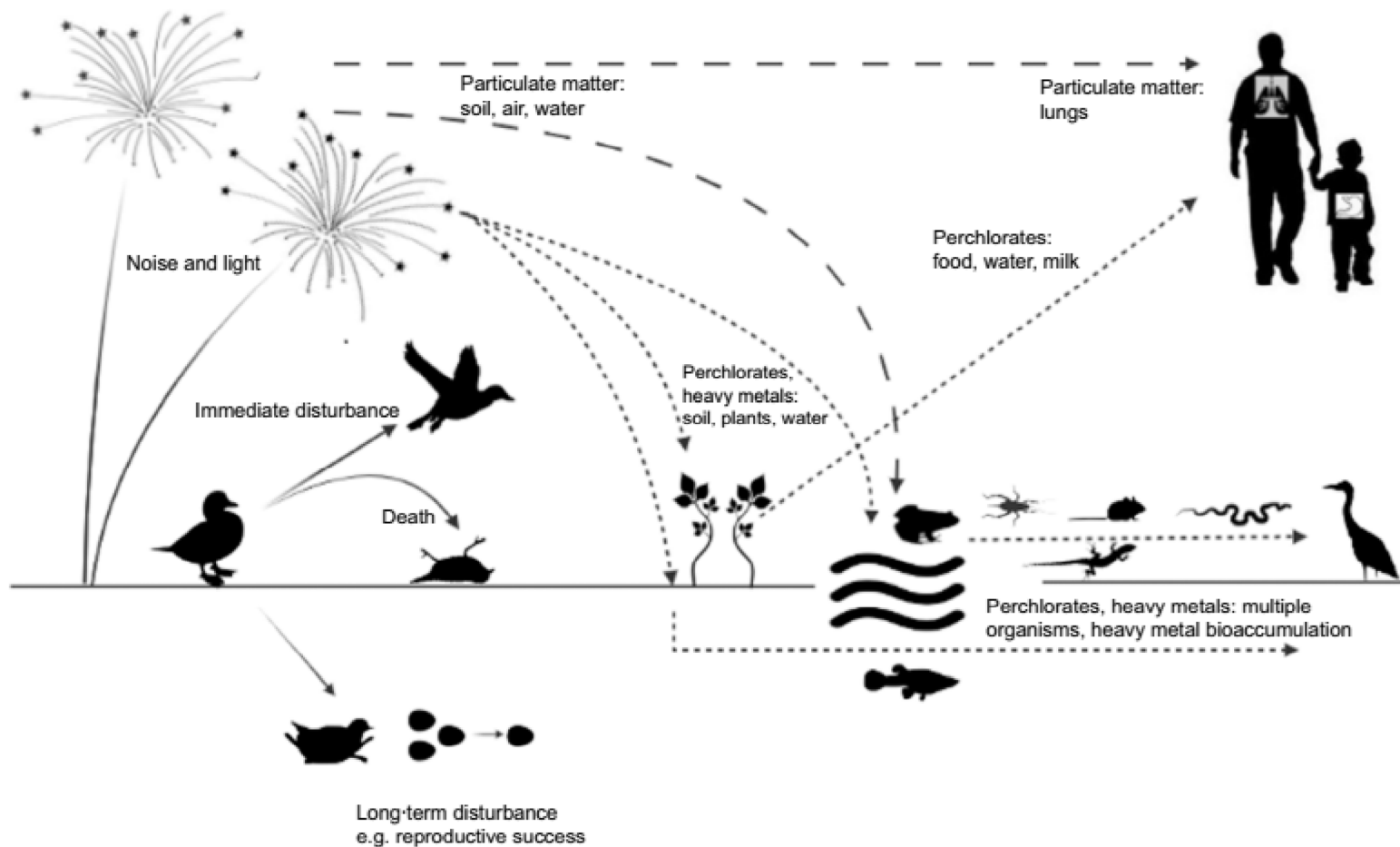


Fig. 1. Conceptual diagram of the effects of fireworks on the environment, from immediate disturbance of birds and other animals, through to rapid pollution of air quality by particulate matter, and deposition of perchlorates and heavy metals into soil and water where they can transfer to humans or bioaccumulate in food chains.

Submission on the Fireworks By-law Review – August 2nd, 2023

Prepared by the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee (ESACAC)

The Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee recommends that the City of London adopts Option B as outlined in the staff report presented to the Strategic Priority and Policy Committee. Option B would allow for permitted display fireworks only to be discharged (which has traditionally included Canada Day, Victoria Day, Diwali, and New Years Eve) in London. This option would restrict use of all consumer (backyard) fireworks, restrict the sale of consumer fireworks in London, and propose an increase to current fines.

Additionally, ESACAC recommends that 1) the City considers the locations of permitted display fireworks to account for nearby environmental disturbance and to limit pollution from entering sensitive features such as the Thames River, and 2) the City aims to promote lower-impact alternatives to fireworks for at least some subsidised public events, such as outdoor concerts and light shows using drones.

The mandate for ESACAC includes remedial planning toward the clean-up of contaminated areas, waste reduction, and the development and monitoring of London's Urban Forest Strategy and Climate Emergency Action Plan. Therefore, our feedback mostly focuses on these themes. This report includes three sections. The first provides background information to support Council reviewing the Fireworks By-law through a climate emergency lens. The second provides linkages between the By-law and relevant City of London policies and strategies. The third addresses potential concerns and frames the proposed Option B for the By-law within broader objectives.

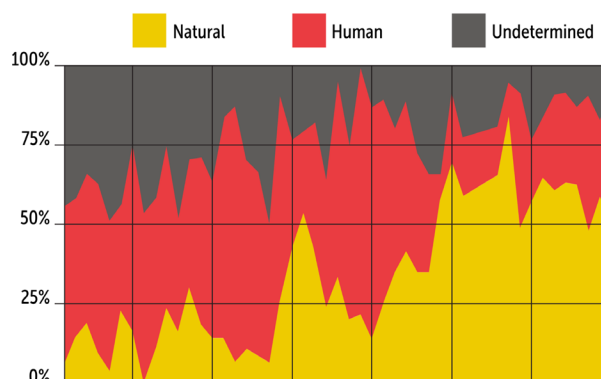
1. Background information: fireworks, climate change and the environment

Climate change is elevating the risk of wildfires. Now and in the future, fireworks may be more likely to cause wildfires that harm people, property and the urban canopy in London Section 1 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan¹ says: “*London has luckily remained relatively unscathed from the severe physical impacts of climate change such as forest fires, major floods and intense heat waves that have struck other parts of the world. As time progresses however, London will very likely experience more severe effects.*”

For example, in June 2023, an unusually long period without rainfall led to some of the worst wildfires and smoke Canada has ever seen², creating significant health and safety concerns for Londoners³, and resulting in the London Fire Department enacting a temporary ban on open burns⁴. Humans cause more than half of all wildland fires in Canada, typically in populated forest and grassland areas⁵. In Ontario, human causes of fires may include fireworks, campfires, off-road vehicles, ammunition, industrial activity, agriculture, power lines and arson.

Cause of 2023 wildfires in Canada (% of total)

Source: Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc.



Source: The Narwhal (2023)⁶

According to the Canadian Forest Service (2005) the overall number of fires occurring in Ontario's fire management area is expected to increase 15% by 2040 and 50% by the end of the century⁷. A recent

scientific study predicts eastern Canada will see a dramatic 200% to 300% increase in “fire spread days” including dry conditions, smoke and poor air quality⁸. Natural Resources Canada estimates that fire protection costs could double in Canada by 2040 as we attempt to keep up with worsening risk.⁹

Responding to community-wide fires in interior British Columbia and Fort McMurray, in 2021 the Canadian federal government issued high-level, nation-wide guide¹⁰ that contains thresholds to inform when and how to prepare at the local and city-wide levels for fires. Section 4.2.2.1 Regulatory Considerations begins with the following:

“Ideally, all land uses should be evaluated to determine whether they are in a wildfire hazard area and, if so, the appropriate type and level of mitigation. However, local municipalities and any other Authorities Having Jurisdiction must also consider their capacity to administer and enforce regulations, which may vary considerably across provinces and territories. The following guidance can support local governments in the development and adoption of land use planning requirements that address the wildfire hazard in the Wildland Urban Interface.

- *Incorporate the goal of minimising the wildfire hazard to people, property, and infrastructure at all stages of the land use planning process. This often begins with plans containing high-level goals and objectives. Although plans may not be legally binding, this policy direction creates a foundation for future implementation through by-laws and other regulatory instruments.*

The Provincial Policy Statement 2014 and London Plan 2016 require that planners must take into consideration the risk of wildland fires. This is based on Provincial mapping of urban forest areas at risk of wildland fire (2017 mapping available on Ontario GeoHub¹¹) The Ontario provincial threat assessment has historically focussed on resource protection, particularly on the boreal forest, but under climate change conditions that attitude no longer prevails. While London is not a hotspot for industrial-scale forestry, it is a major transport hub and densely populated area. Wildland fires, which can include grassland fires, will likely become more frequent and/or more extensive here.

Under the current Fireworks By-law, consumer fireworks are being detonated throughout the city, including in vegetated and densely populated areas. While there is abundant anecdotal evidence to suggest fireworks are being used in ways outside of what is permitted under the By-law, applicable restrictions are challenging to enforce, and there are limited data on enforcement cases to estimate the risk of starting fires. However, the lack of data should not inhibit the City from taking actions to limit known and plausible harms and risks. Under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999) the Canadian federal government's actions to protect the environment and health are guided by the precautionary principle, which states that *"where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."*¹²

The City's Urban Forest Strategy was completed in 2016 to effectively care for existing tree cover, plan for continued health and improve tree cover for the future. A Tree Planting Strategy update is underway which will also include an update to the Wildland Fire Risk rating (identified as ‘low to moderate’ for London in 2017 by Provincial Ministries). Council may wish to consult with staff about the forthcoming updated Wildfire Fire Risk rating to support decisions on fireworks.

The Canadian Association of Fireworks Chiefs espouses a complete ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks in Canada, in favour of the professional fireworks industry¹³.

Existing uses of consumer fireworks are creating pollution that extends into the Natural Heritage System and the Thames River. However, there are presently no data on the extent of pollution associated with fireworks in London specifically. Fireworks generate multiple forms of pollution, including:

- A. **Single-use plastics** which should be sent to landfill, but often end up as litter at sites where detonations occur. Fireworks detonated near waterways may send plastic downriver. Plastics used in fireworks casing and packaging can take decades to centuries to break down. Plastic fragments may be ingested by wildlife such as fish, turtles and birds. Litter in natural areas associated with fireworks is observed frequently during the warmer months, especially following recent celebrations (Antler River Rally, personal communication).
- B. **Airborne pollutants** such as ozone¹⁴ and fine particulate matter which are released upon detonation fireworks. Fine particulate pollutants may include perchlorates, nitric oxide and sulphur dioxide (primary contributors to acid rain)¹⁵ and heavy metals such as lead, copper, barium, strontium, potassium and magnesium¹⁶ that linger in the air and contribute to reduced air quality. For instance, one study found concentration of particulate matter in the air is about 42% greater during fireworks shows¹⁷; another study found that within 1 hour of fireworks displays, strontium levels in the air increased 120 times, magnesium 22 times, barium 12 times, potassium 11 times, and copper 6 times more than the amount already present in the air before the event¹⁸. Fine particulate pollutants are small enough to enter human lungs and cause health issues¹⁹. Pollutants dissipate slowly; in many areas, air quality may not return to normal until the following day as particles are captured in rainfall, or settle in soils and bodies of water. Pollution from fireworks may compound in the environment over time²⁰, some with toxic effects at even low doses²¹. Airborne pollutants released by fireworks travel far from their origin. For example, studies that tagged heavy metals used in pyrotechnics found the metals travelled 100 km (62 miles) downwind over a two-day period of mild weather^{22, 23}. Concerns about air quality impacts²⁴ have led to government interventions on firework displays during celebrations such as Diwali in New Delhi, India²⁵.

2. Linkages to City of London policies and strategies

The City of London 2023-2027 Strategic Plan outlines several Strategic Areas of Focus and their Outcomes that are relevant to reviewing the Fireworks By-law.

- A. **Strategic Area of Focus:** Reconciliation, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Excerpts from Plan:

- *“The City of London is a leader in becoming an equitable and inclusive community.”*
- *“Working collaboratively, intentionally, and integrating these values across all our work, we will help make London a community that is equitable, inclusive, and accessible for everyone.”*

Linkages: Detonations of consumer fireworks have immediate negative consequences for community members throughout the City, such as people with disabilities such as autism²⁶, people with respiratory ailments (such as asthma) and people with PTSD and trauma²⁷, in ways that are inescapable from their own homes.

- B. **Strategic Area of Focus:** Wellbeing and Safety

Excerpt from Plan:

- *“Prioritising safety and quality of life for all Londoners, we will make London a community where everyone feels safe, welcome, and supported.”*
- Outcome 1.1 *“Londoners feel safe across the city, in the core, and in their neighbourhoods and communities.”* e) *“Modify municipal compliance protocol to proactively address emerging issues, including the health and homelessness crisis, using a balanced compassionate approach.”*

- Outcome 1.2: “*Londoners have a strong sense of belonging and sense of place.*” b) “*Create cultural opportunities that reflect the arts, heritage, and diversity of the community.*”

Linkages: Vulnerable Londoners report not feeling safe or supported when fireworks are creating oppressive, unpredictable noise that they cannot escape in places where they live. The detonation of consumer fireworks in neighbourhoods is subject to zero oversight and poses safety risks to people and property. Under Option B, the City can create cultural opportunities reflecting the diversity of the community by facilitating cultural events, including some fireworks displays and alternatives, in controlled, communal settings.

C. Strategic Area of Focus: Climate Action and Sustainable Growth

Excerpt from Plan:

- Outcome 1.2 “*Waterways, wetlands, watersheds, and natural areas are protected and enhanced.*” c) “*Protect and enhance the health of City’s watersheds through the implementation of the Shared Waters Approach, the Thames Valley Corridor Plan, and the Watershed Resource Management Strategies.*”
- Outcome 2.2: “*London is more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of a changing Climate.*” b) “*Support community preparedness for the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.*” c) “*Implement the Climate Lens Framework across the City of London and its agencies, boards, and commissions and report on the results.*”

Linkages: The Shared Waters Approach²⁷, Goal 3: Improve Water Quality To Support Stream Health, Including Aquatic Life (page 61), includes the following recommendation: “*Continue to support regulations and encourage compliance for activities that manage waste or minimise, prevent or mitigate the release of emissions or contaminants to the environment.*” As outlined above, limiting detonations of consumer fireworks will play an important role in mitigating elevated risk of wildfires under climate change.

3. Concerns and responses

The Fireworks By-law debate has been ongoing in the City of London for several years. Across numerous discussions, some narratives have been shared that do not reflect aspects of this decision that we feel could be important. Below we provide responses to three principal concerns that have been identified.

Concern: “*If consumer fireworks are restricted, the City will lack sufficient capacity to enforce the By-law.*”

Response: Many of London’s by-laws are only enforced to a limited extent, depending on complaints and/or available resources such as compliance staff. In some cases, by-laws can be challenging to enforce because of intrinsic difficulties with obtaining necessary documentation that a violation has occurred. For example, the Tree Protection By-law lays out prohibitions on injuring or removing mature trees, yet in practice compliance staff cannot possibly prevent or react to all cases of illegal activities involving trees. Similarly, the Animal Control By-law outlines prohibitions on allowing pets to run at large, yet the City does not issue fines in the vast majority of cases where dogs and cats are allowed to run. Nonetheless, the Tree Protection By-law and Animal Control By-law are both recognized as important for environmental protection because they outline prohibitions in the first place. They set legal standards for the public to follow, they act as deterrents against harmful activities, and they support residents in situations where standards have not been followed and documentation is obtained. Under Option B, people who detonate consumer fireworks in London despite the by-law would be knowingly engaging in legally prohibited activities. Whether or not the by-law is enforced in each case does not change this fact.

Concern: *“If people cannot purchase consumer fireworks in London, then they will instead purchase them online or visit another municipality, and the restrictions are pointless.”*

Response: Under Option B, if selling consumer fireworks in London were restricted, it would indeed still be possible for Londoners to acquire fireworks through other means. However, there would be additional barriers to purchasing fireworks (e.g., cost and delays associated with shipping, travel) that will help to reduce overall consumption of fireworks. Furthermore, restricting selling and advertising of fireworks in London would help to limit impulse purchases by people who otherwise would not think of it or take the initiative. Selling of fireworks in parking lots and along roadsides, as is currently practised, plants the idea of fireworks in the minds of passersby. Government-imposed restrictions on point-of-sale marketing of harmful substances, such as restrictions on cigarettes under the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act (1997)²⁸ have helped to shift patterns in consumer behaviour over time. Lastly, other municipalities surrounding London such as the City of Woodstock²⁹ are increasingly looking to regulate sales of consumer fireworks. If there is concern about surrounding municipalities continuing to sell fireworks, and that limiting the efficacy of restrictions in London, then perhaps Council could correspond with other municipalities to inform them of its decision about the Fireworks By-law and emphasise the desire for a united regional approach.

Concern: *“Attending fireworks displays is culturally important to Londoners. We should not deprive families or specific cultural groups of opportunities to host traditional celebrations.”*

Response: Fireworks are not being subjected to an outright “ban” as some have suggested. Under Option B, Londoners would still have numerous opportunities each year to attend fireworks displays at events sanctioned by the City, in alignment with recommendations of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs to leave fireworks up to professionals. This is more aptly described as “phasing out” specific types of fireworks in a way that balances the desire for traditions to continue with public safety and limiting harms to the environment. The City can also continue to support families and cultural celebrations by promoting comparable alternatives to fireworks, such as light shows and outdoor concerts, that more closely align with its objectives while respecting the environment and people who live in neighbourhoods surrounding events.

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services
Committee

From: Lisa Macklem

1869 Aldersbrook Rd

London, ON

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,
Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks. There are many reasons that this is the best choice for all Londoners. I personally have misophonia, which is a hyper-sensitivity to noise. This condition can be so severe as to lead to self-harming behavior as coping mechanisms. Of course, I'm not the only person who is severely affected by loud noises, and there are other conditions even more severe than my own such as PTSD. The unregulated use of fireworks in neighborhood displays can be dangerous to both users and their neighbours, potentially ending in physical harm or destruction of property due to improper handling of fireworks. I remember an incident from my own childhood where a local neighbourhood display ended when a spark flew into the fireworks box, setting them all off with many simply shooting along the ground and into the crowd. It's a miracle that there weren't more severe injuries that day.

In addition to the harm caused to our human neighbours, there is also a great deal of harm caused to animals exposed to fireworks. I think of my own dog, who was never afraid of thunderstorms but would have severe fear and anxiety when exposed to fireworks. The high-pitched whine before the loud bangs is what triggered him. Obviously, dogs that already have a fear of thunderstorms are even more likely to be terrorized. I also own a horse. He lives almost next door to a shooting range. The shooting range used, incidentally, by the Police College. There are a wide range of weapons discharged on a virtually daily basis. He never reacts to

these noises. He does become upset when a thunderstorm is coming, and he is much more distressed by fireworks.

Finally, I am prompted to request the ban on the sale of consumer fireworks due to the behavior of many of the people in my own neighbourhood. Prior to the Pandemic, there would always be a few nights before or after Victoria Day or Canada Day when one or two neighbors would set off fireworks for 30-60 minutes. However, during the Pandemic it was common for fireworks to go on from about 8pm to 2 or 3am for several days – and often seemingly randomly. I live near a ravine and several public parks, and there would often be unregulated fireworks being set off – regardless of any fire bans or noise regulations. Unfortunately, my neighbours have proven that the only solution would be a complete ban of sales AND use by consumers.

I ask again that the committee vote for Option B and implement fines and enforcement to ensure that a ban on sales and use is successful. I know that you will have received a number of letters asking for Option B and that you will have received lists of other communities that have banned consumer fireworks. In addition there are many alternatives to fireworks displays and there are also many other reasons to ban them. I have only tried to provide you with some of my own personal experience. The mental and physical health of both the humans and animals who live in London depend on this ban.

Sincerely,

Lisa Macklem

Good day,

I am writing a letter in support of stopping the use of fireworks as a way to celebrate.

Over the years, we have learned that fireworks release toxic chemicals and heavy metals into our ecosystems and into our bodies. We cannot have well people on a sick planet.

We didn't know this when they were invented hundreds of years ago. People all over the world revel in their use, as did I before I learned about their toxicity. They have become an expectation at all kinds of events. A massive expense for event planners, countries, cities, and neighbourhoods.

We also know the unintended consequences on wildlife from fireworks' sound pollution. These will be reviewed in-depth, I'm sure. Our beloved domestic animals suffer shock and fear from explosions they have no way of understanding as nonviolent.

Add on people we care about who have PTSD from similar explosions and the injuries that occur when fireworks are used unsafely or malfunction.

Essentially, when a society learns that something has overwhelming evidence that indicates it has more cons than pros, it is wise to shift away from it.

There will be people who don't care about these reasons. Or people who can't imagine special events without explosions. They will attempt to disparage reasonable argument in favour of the status quo.

New technology has shown that we can create spectacular shows using more benign methods. Humans are very creative and we can design less destructive ways to celebrate.

I once loved fireworks as much as anyone else. I know we can do better now. We can stop using fireworks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Be well,

Pamela Reid BA MES

To the Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

I'm a Londoner, born and bred!

As a kid, my brothers and I used to light sparklers and set “burning schoolhouses” on fire and put flaming “cannon” crackers under empty tin cans and watch as they blasted into the air! So much fun!!

As an adult, I went to the fireworks displays at the Forks. So loud that I could feel the BOOM! in my body. And as the fireballs erupted over my head, I felt surrounded by the exploding colours. So magical!

And then I began to learn about the harmful effects of fireworks on people, pets, wild animals and birds and the environment. I started to pay attention.

More and more I heard about and read about how frightened some people and pets are because of fireworks. And I personally saw the negative effects of fireworks exploding nearby on nestlings in a bald eagle's nest, while I was watching them live on the internet.

And my attitude toward fireworks changed! I no longer see fireworks as fun and magical.

We need to start phasing out fireworks, especially as there are alternatives now – and because there are so many other family and eco-friendly ways to celebrate! I support Option B: a ban on the sale of consumer fireworks and no backyard fireworks allowed.

As Maya Angelo said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Do better, London!!

Sincerely,

Bobby Hampton

To whom it may concern,

I am absolutely in favour of banning all fireworks citywide, including both private and city displays, as soon as possible. City firework displays are dangerous, kill wildlife, traumatize pets and children. Cities and countries everywhere are banning fireworks displays especially for environmental reasons.

I am very much in agreement with the following study:

This is from a recent study by Fanshawe students summarizing their research demonstrating the evidence based facts behind the harmful effects of fireworks. A brief summary of some of those facts are listed here:

- Many wild animals suffer and die during even small fireworks shows
 - Mothering birds abandon their young
 - Deer fling themselves into busy roads
 - Horses have heart attacks and keel over
 - Domestic pets develop heart problems
- Burning fireworks outputs unnecessary pollution that isn't cleaned
 - Generates highly toxic gases and pollutants (the concentrations are 42% higher during shows)
 - All of these pollutants are toxic chemicals that are permanent and compounding when introduced (they do NOT dissipate over time)
 - If the show is large enough these gases and pollutants stay in the air for days, slowly raining down on children, animals, elderly and everyone else

I do not foresee a problem at this time moving to an alternate display of laser or drone shows.

sincerely,
Steve Olivastri

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern about the use of backyard fireworks in our city. I want to express my support of "Option B", banning all consumer backyard fireworks. I believe they have several negative effects on our environment and community.

Firstly, fireworks can cause significant noise pollution which can be distressing for both humans and animals. The loud noises can cause anxiety and stress in pets and wildlife, leading to disorientation and even injury.

Secondly, fireworks can have a negative impact on the environment. The debris left behind after a fireworks display can pollute our waterways and harm aquatic life. Additionally, the chemicals used in fireworks can contaminate soil and groundwater. My local community park is riddled with fireworks debris following any long weekend in the summer.

Finally, fireworks pose a significant fire safety hazard. They can easily ignite dry grass or other flammable materials, leading to wildfires that can cause significant damage to homes and property.

While I wish people could be responsible and follow the current by-laws regarding fireworks, my experience living in multiple areas of the city has been that many people do not respect the current rules, discharging fireworks multiple days outside of the allowed windows and long past the 11pm deadline. I believe the only way to provide an experience that is best for all people in our community - considering that most people do not discharge fireworks but have no say in how others do or do not follow the by-laws - is to ban backyard fireworks altogether and follow up with enforcement. Those who wish to experience fireworks on holidays can still attend fireworks displays that have been allowed by permit.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that backyard fireworks should be banned in our community. I urge you to take action to protect our environment and community by supporting a ban on backyard fireworks.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nate Hans

Fireworks have been a part of celebrations for decades. When I was a child I didn't think about the other implications of fireworks. As an adult I have a difficult time justifying their use, especially in residential settings.

Fireworks are currently permitted for personal use on certain days of the year. Our family, like many others, have tried to make small changes to help encourage environmental recovery around us. For all of our small efforts of trying to share our homes with the other living things around us, individual firework displays have hurt our efforts by terrifying the indigenous wildlife that we share the space with.

Many residential homes are close together and do not facilitate the safe use of explosives by one or many neighbours. My family should be able to enjoy sitting outside on the long weekend. When personal fireworks have been set off in our area, they are not only incredibly loud, but the debris from the fireworks has fallen all over our property, vehicles and us when we are sitting outside. We were honestly concerned about something catching on fire because of the close proximity. It is so disruptive and dangerous and invasive I don't think there is any place for personal fireworks in individual backyards.

This is a critical time for all of us. We are living during an environmental reckoning and we should be prioritizing healthy planet choices over human entertainment. If there are other options for celebrating that don't create debris, loud noises and residual air pollution I would think we should be embracing those options as a City.

I would support Option B which would ban consumer fireworks from being discharged. There should be enforcement of this rule as well.

Thank you for your time.
Kathryn

Good evening council

Many of my fellow advocates have and will be speaking to you about concerns connected with firework shows. They are providing you with vital facts about people who suffer from mental illness such as PTSD and household pets and wildlife suffering anxiety, as well as facts on the negative effects of fireworks on our environment. All strong and important reasons why London should both ban the public sale/use of fireworks, AND why London should invest in sustainable people/animal/environmentally friendly options.

I, however, would like to speak about the overall excessive cost. I have researched the cost of an average "main event" fireworks display and found that it costs an average of \$500 - \$1000 PER MINUTE. Here in London, we typically see a 30 min display. That is a minimum cost of \$15,000 up to \$30,000 per show. At 2 shows per year that is an annual cost of between \$30,000 - \$60,000 for a total of 1 hour of what is entertaining to some, but life shattering to many others.

I would like to propose to the council, starting 2024 London invests those funds into more sustainable, people/animal and environmentally friendly forms of light shows, such as computer programmed mini drones. After 1-2 years once an appropriate size Fleet is acquired, London will be able to have lightshows not just the typical celebrated occasions such as Canada Day, but also for local events such as Rib feast, sun feast and so much more, for only a fraction of the cost, freeing up funds that can be allocated to other major issues within our city such as the need for more RGI/Supportive housing and mental health and drug addiction services

I also strongly support my fellow advocates in their request to have London follow the example of Woodstock and ban the public sale and use of fireworks withing London starting in 2024, thereby allowing the retailers time to sell any existing stock.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Greetings from all of us at Srishti Foundation

Hope this email finds you all doing well.

Srishti Foundation in Canada, is a registered not-for-profit organization, founded in 2012. **Srishti** in Sanskrit means “creation”. Srishti is about the creation of a more vibrant, more giving society and inculcating a sense of Seva (selfless service) in our next generation. [Check out](#) our quiet but impactful work over the years, on the ground with a hallmark of inclusivity and diversity, including Diwali & Holi celebrations in downtown London.

It is very unfortunate to learn that the City of London is considering a ban on backyard fireworks for now, with some proponents, we understand, who want it banned altogether, which in effect makes Option B, a foot in the door and a slippery slope.

While Option B under your consideration will essentially eliminate or deny the rights to Londoners to have vibrant celebrations on a little over a couple of important days for Canadians, especially children, and turn these into another set of drab celebrations, minus the vibrancy, cheer and joyousness.

For Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists, in London, it also means

- Denying them a very important ritual in a family setting that is an integral part of Diwali from time immemorial.
- Denying young Londoners growing up the memories of a joyous festival at home.
- Eventually erase this ritual for good, for a family centric festival.

Proponents of Option B who highlight availability of Permits, haven't considered family celebrations at home or the fact that for people without the language, advocacy skills, single families and low SES families, it would be near impossible to navigate the bureaucracy and afford the costs of getting a backyard fireworks permit.

It is so easy to erase away traditions and rituals with a single stroke of a pen or a vote, at the behest of vested interests or a well organized vocal minority, while ironically we talk about preserving traditions and culture etc.

All of the above will dent the City's commitment to honour and preserve cultural traditions and diversity in London.

We are fully committed to upholding the well-being of our city and its inhabitants and to this end, offer to educate our community about responsible and safe firework usage and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations.

The few bad apples, who violate rules and create mischief during these celebrations can and need to be dealt with. Instead let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Sincerely,

For Srishti Foundation

Vinod Varapravan

Dear Honourable Mayor and City Council Members,

Greetings from Tatvamasi (TAT), London Ontario.

Hope this email finds you all doing well.

Tatvamasi (TAT) is a registered not-for-profit organization of over 300 **Hindu families in London** hailing from Kerala, a province of India. TAT is also part of the advocacy **Hindu Legacy group**, representing the South Asian Hindu community in London.

TAT objectives are collective action of the members in community development activities, promoting cultural social events and organizing and training the children as community service volunteers.

It is very unfortunate to learn that the City of London is **considering a ban on backyard fireworks** for now, with some proponents, who want it banned altogether, which in effect makes Option B, a foot in the door and a slippery slope.

We, the **Hindu Community**, the supporters of cultural diversity, come together to petition against the proposed ban on fireworks, particularly during our **sacred Diwali festival a Hindu religious celebration**.

The proposed **Option B under consideration** will essentially eliminate or deny the rights to Londoners to have vibrant celebrations on a little over a couple of important days for Canadians, especially children, and turn these into another set of drab celebrations, minus the vibrancy and joyousness.

Further under **Option B -availability of Permits for backyard fireworks-** **has not considered the following** (a) **Diwali is a family celebration at home** (b) It would be near impossible to navigate the bureaucracy to get permits for people without the language, advocacy skills, single families and low SES families.

As **Hindus, fireworks hold deep spiritual and cultural significance**, representing the triumph of good over evil and symbolizing the joyous unity of our community. We implore authorities to recognize the importance of fireworks in our traditions and allow us to continue observing our festivities with reverence and joy.

We are fully committed to upholding the well-being of our city and its inhabitants and to this end, offer to educate our community about **responsible and safe backyard firework usage** and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations.

Once again, the Hindu Community **does NOT support** a ban on backyard fireworks.

Sincerely

Tatvamasi, London Ontario.

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

Namaste from Chinmaya Mission London.

Chinmaya Mission London, is a registered Hindu religious organization, founded in 2011 and a registered charity in Canada. We are part of a worldwide mission with over 350 centres around the world, engaging in imparting Hindu education to children and adults. In London we run classes on Sunday for children and classes for adults through the week in addition to organizing special events, retreats, summer and spring camps etc. To learn more about us please visit <https://www.chinmayalondon.org/>

We have over 150 students at our centre in London, who study Hinduism and its scriptures every weekend. As a Hindu religious organization in London, promoting and teaching Hinduism to preserve its traditions and culture is integral to our existence.

We recently learned of a poll published by the City with 2 options to ban fireworks in a backyard setting. Option B essentially eliminates or denies the rights to Hindus in London to their religious freedom. This is very easy to do with a vote, at the behest of lobby groups while ironically we talk about preserving traditions and culture. We were disappointed by this attempt to erase a very important ritual from our Diwali traditions, in a family setting. Diwali is the largest Hindu festival that brings together friends and families. Fireworks that typically include sparklers, spinning wheels etc are something that our children associate with Diwali and eagerly look forward to this day each year. Banning backyard fireworks takes away this 800 year old tradition that symbolizes light over darkness, triumph of good over evil.

We see this as

- Infringement on the religious rights and freedom of Hindus in London
- Denial of an important ritual from a family centric ancient festival
- Denial of joy, vibrancy from one of the most festive celebrations
- Loss of an opportunity for our future generations to learn our traditions in an authentic manner

Hinduism is one of the only surviving ancient civilizations and it has gone through its share of attempts to erase its traditions. It is rooted in the tenets of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" meaning the world is one family. We are a peaceful community contributing significantly to the growth of London in all ways.

We appreciate the City's concerns regarding noise and air pollution amongst others. Our group will be representing the public participation meeting on Aug 15 when these concerns will be addressed. We are fully committed to upholding the well-being of our city and its inhabitants and to this end, offer to educate our community about responsible and safe firework usage and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations.

We are confident that the City will take our concerns seriously and honour the City's commitment to preserve cultural traditions and diversity in London.

I also give consent to publish this letter as required for the public hearing

Sincerely,

Chinmaya Mission London

Sreelatha Varapravan
On behalf of the Board of Directors

Dear Members of Council,

This year several U.S. cities cancelled their fireworks display because of poor air quality from forest fires burning in B.C. On July first, London was under an air quality alert, advising that people with respiratory illnesses remain indoors, yet this city went ahead with a fireworks display anyways.

Fireworks are not important. They are extremely polluting because the explosive material in fireworks is black powder. They are not more important than people's health, the life of wildlife, or scaring young children or pets. With more highrises being built, the sounds bounding off the tall buildings amplifies the sound and this year it sounded as if bombs were being dropped on the city. There are better and exciting alternatives to fireworks, and there really isn't any reason to continue the use of fireworks.

The current fireworks by-law is not enforceable. Explosive products are being sold to private citizens who then set off fireworks at all hours of the night. Staff are literally looking for a needle in a haystack when trying to chase down illegal fireworks displays.

I was one of those people that went to the survey site but did not fill it out because I found it 'leading'. I support a total fireworks display ban and a move to laser and drone lights as these are as beautiful as any fireworks display. Businesses that currently sell fireworks need to transition out into other products that are as celebratory but not harmful.

Sincerely

Simon Richards

Hello City Council,

I just read about the meeting regarding fireworks in London on August 15th but am unable to attend the meeting so here's my two cents. If you go with Option A nothing will change. It's basically the same restrictions that are in place now and no one follows them. I live in Fairmont and fireworks/firecrackers go off all summer at random times. No one worries about getting caught or fined because by the time someone (police) responds to the call the offenders are gone.

The only option that will work for both sides of the issue is Option B. The people who want to see fireworks can still do that at the sites permitted by the city and those who don't want fireworks can at least be prepared because they'll know what dates and times they'll be going off.

Thank you for taking this issue seriously.
Sara Diane Crane

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Re: Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Agenda Item
3.1 Fireworks By-law Options

Dear Mayor Josh Morgan and Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

I am a London resident and taxpayer requesting that you select Option B of the proposed changes to the Fireworks By-law. Consumer (backyard) fireworks endanger the environment, our health, our companion pets, and vital biodiversity. Option B is the only choice that supports the Council's Strategic Plan to prioritize climate action, and wellbeing and safety.

Fireworks...

- release greenhouse gases contributing to climate change,
- pollute the air, land and water with particulate matter and litter,
- threaten the lives of companion pets and wildlife, and
- traumatize Londoners with autism and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Why would Council choose to allow this harm and destruction to continue?

Fireworks do not adhere to the City of London Strategic Plan. The Council's commitment to "protecting our waterways and wetlands" is jeopardized each time fireworks contaminate streams, ponds and the Thames River. Disregarding the anguish fireworks cause to some residents does not prioritize the "safety and quality of life for all Londoners". Condoning the harm backyard fireworks cause to dogs who have fled in terror does not "promote animal welfare including companion pets and wild animals".

Fireworks kill birds. Our feathered friends fly into windows or abandon their vulnerable nestlings in their frantic attempts to escape the loud noises, bright lights and smoky skies. As a Bird Friendly City, the City of London has publicly announced their commitment to protecting avian populations and recently benefited from hosting an international meeting of bird researchers. Option B would uphold London's dedication to saving birds.

Law Enforcement Officers cannot fine all Londoners who break the municipal laws, but changing the Fireworks By-law to prevent backyard fireworks will act as a deterrent. Any decrease in fireworks will be beneficial to both the environment and Londoners' health.

Option B demonstrates the Council's commitment to a sustainable city and compassion for the vulnerable. Banning backyard fireworks is climate action. It is the only option for a Bird Friendly City. Once again, I ask that you select Option B and ban consumer (backyard) fireworks. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,
Rebecca St. Pierre
2295 Kains Road
London, ON

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Madelyn Hertz
695 Richmond Street, N6A 5M8

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and Community and Protective Services Committee Members,

I am a doctoral student at Western University and resident of the City of London. I am writing to you as my contribution to the public participation meeting to address the topic of fireworks and the City of London's Fireworks By-Law. The main purpose of my letter is to request that the committee **choose Option B** within the proposed by-law changes to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks in London.

I believe the banning of consumer fireworks is a good start towards London modernizing future celebrations to be more mindful of the harmful impacts that fireworks have on the environment, people, and wildlife alike. Additionally, I believe serious changes are needed to recognize the colonial history behind the holidays in which fireworks are currently used.

As you know, the City of London declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan in the spring of 2022. I believe that Council is obligated to look at the issue of fireworks through the lens of its Climate Emergency Screening Tool. We know that traditional fireworks contain harmful chemical components that pollute our environment and that those pollutants accumulate over time in both soil and water.

I understand that some councillors believe there are other, larger pollutants and social issues that we should be worried about instead. However, the fact that bigger issues exist, doesn't automatically make it acceptable to ignore the environmental harms of smaller issues such as fireworks. If this issue is so small, why can't we acknowledge its toxic and deadly impacts on the environment by simply banning the use and sale of fireworks so that we can be done with the matter and thus move on to those bigger issues? Shouldn't we at least try to make improvements where we can as a municipality? It's through these "small changes" that we are able to begin enacting real and tangible change in our communities.

This summer, London has had multiple air quality warnings due to the smoke from wildfires north of us, particularly in the days leading up to Canada Day. It was disappointing that the council did not discuss canceling the City's fireworks display for Canada Day in light of those poor air quality reports. As global temperatures continue to increase, the issue of droughts, wildfires, and poor air quality will also continue to increase. We need to act now!

As someone that has previously worked as a wildland firefighter, I am keenly aware of the hazards that fireworks pose. In the United States, more wildfires start on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year, in no small part due to its notoriety as a firework-friendly holiday. In 2021, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) notes that there were over 12,000 fires

caused by fireworks on the Fourth of July¹. While raw data for Canada isn't as available, several cities, including Montreal, have cancelled fireworks displays in the past due to air quality and wildfire risks. Canadian cities and towns are aware of the risks that fireworks pose; backyard fireworks are more dangerous because they aren't monitored in the same way as display fireworks, posing an even greater risk. I urge you, on behalf of the city of London, to recognize the dangers that backyard fireworks pose as many others have already.

A particular concern with the City's Canada Day fireworks celebrations is that they are held over the Forks of the Thames.

"It was originally thought that perchlorate in fireworks would not be an issue since it supposedly would be burned in the air, but studies done in Oklahoma and Massachusetts have found significant levels of the chemical in lakes and groundwater, primarily following firework shows."²

Perchlorate can accumulate in our drinking water and at high levels, it disrupts thyroid function and the related hormones that are essential for normal development. Even at lower levels exposed fetuses, infants, and young children are at risk of developing hyperthyroidism and thyroid cancer. This is only the tip of the iceberg regarding the negative impacts that fireworks fallout can have on human health. The heavy metals and toxic particulates that fireworks are composed of are known to damage human cells and animal lungs. A doctor with the NYU Grossman School of Medicine states, "**Although people are only exposed to these substances for a short time each year, they are much more toxic than the pollutants we breathe every day.**"³

These pollutants "can remain in the region for **days** after fireworks."⁴ The particulates then "settle to the earth, contaminating soil, groundwater sources, and bodies of water." While some may argue that this perchlorate contamination goes away eventually, and is therefore a non-issue, I believe that the **20 to 80 days**⁵ it takes for perchlorate concentrations to return to background levels after fireworks displays is not something to ignore. Just because something goes away eventually, doesn't mean it hasn't caused lasting damage to the environment. Birds typically learn to fly within a month of being born, showing that a lot can happen in a short time, especially regarding wildlife development; according to these figures, some animals would reach near-maturity before firework pollutants degrade. When looking at humans, 80 weeks is almost the length of one trimester, a time critical to fetal development.

Fireworks over the Thames are a huge threat not just to London's wildlife and people, but also to the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Delaware Nation, and Munsee Delaware Nation because, which are all downstream from London. Not only is the toxic output from fireworks an environmental concern, but it is also a matter that falls within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. This specifically applies to practicing

¹ <https://www.abc57.com/news/the-dangers-of-fireworks-increased-fire-risk-in-drought-and-decreased-air-quality#:~:text=Researchers%20have%20found%20that%20more,fires%20started%20due%20to%20fireworks.>

² <https://www.sustainablebizconsulting.com/blog/toxic-chemicals-in-fireworks-might-want-to-hold-your-breath>

³ <https://nyulangone.org/news/common-fireworks-release-lead-copper-other-toxic-metals-air#:~:text=Along%20with%20lead%2C%20titanium%2C%20strontium,Gordon.>

⁴ <https://www.sustainablebizconsulting.com/blog/toxic-chemicals-in-fireworks-might-want-to-hold-your-breath>

⁵ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6225972_Perchlorate_Behavior_in_a_Municipal_Lake_Following_Fireworks_Displays

“meaningful consultations, and obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples”⁶ when activities within the city have a chance to impact their populations on reserve. Some councillors believe that a ban won’t work because they assume people will just drive outside of the city to buy fireworks. If a consumer ban goes into effect, that may happen. However, impulse shopping will be curbed, and we believe that will result in a significant decline in the number of fireworks discharged. It’s worth noting that, nearby, Woodstock’s city council has passed a motion for a ban on the detonation and sales of consumer fireworks (July 13, 2023). Their fire department is currently drafting that ban.

Other nearby municipalities such as Caledon have moved forward with a consumer ban and shared evidence that it appears to be working. They started discussing a ban on fireworks in 2018, **BEFORE** the pandemic, due to safety and environmental concerns. Please consider this statement from the Mayor of Caledon (Caledon banned consumer fireworks in 2021), who recently said, “We received five emails and nine phone calls over the Victoria Day weekend to report personal fireworks activity. That is a marked improvement over previous years.”⁷ Has any councillor who said that a ban won’t work taken the time to contact city officials in Caledon or Brampton where consumer fireworks have been banned? Consulting with nearby officials on the efficacy of these bans is crucial to informing our own decisions and building upon existing experience.

A similar rebuttal regarding people buying outside of the city was offered in resistance to the cosmetic pesticide ban that has been successfully implemented in London, massively reducing the toxins going into our soils every year. A firework ban would likely be similarly effective and would significantly reduce occurrences of consumer fireworks and thus the harms that come with them.

Some councillors may be concerned that a consumer ban on fireworks will eliminate a legal industry that creates jobs in our city. I’d like to remind the Committee members that it is not your responsibility to ensure that local businesses keep up with the times. When a smoking ban in restaurants and bars came into effect, people complained that a ban would have a negative impact on businesses and that there would be a loss of revenue. What actually happened? Businesses adapted and thrived as they always do when things change. Some fireworks companies like NorthStar Fireworks and Drones Shows, started adapting to the changing times a number of years ago. Formerly, they were a business that provided fireworks only, now, they have grown their business to include drone shows⁸. This development of drone shows demonstrates the flexibility of the industry. Furthermore, drone shows are likely more accessible and less logistically demanding, allowing for increased opportunities and therefore allowing companies that adapt to access previously untapped markets.

I know that some councillors are also concerned that a consumer ban on fireworks will not be enforceable because the City lacks the amount of staff required to enforce a ban. However, the City hasn’t been able to enforce the current by-law either. Making a switch to preventing **all** consumer fireworks from being sold locally will make implementation much clearer than the current bylaw.

6 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

7 <https://www.caledon.ca/en/news/fireworks-bylaw-helps-ease-complaints.aspx>

8 [https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/fed-up-with-fireworks-maybe-it-s-time-to-fly-up-the-drones-](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/fed-up-with-fireworks-maybe-it-s-time-to-fly-up-the-drones-1.6871034?fbclid=IwAR1BzmeQ_GuxHkaddu_gQRsBN0wX3O3CRRoXymH7OZAbezcbPnojdDpmOk)

1.6871034?fbclid=IwAR1BzmeQ_GuxHkaddu_gQRsBN0wX3O3CRRoXymH7OZAbezcbPnojdDpmOk

Right now, many people don't understand when or even where fireworks are permitted or prohibited. Further, many don't even know how or where to report violations. With a complete ban on consumer fireworks, Londoners will then know that **any** backyard show is prohibited. It's reasonable to expect that a consumer ban would lead to information about where to report violations spreading much faster among groups as the conversation about the ban also spreads. This clarity would allow for easier enforcement and easier adherence by citizens.

You will hear much more at the PPM from residents who have grave concerns about the harmful impact of fireworks. Contrary to the beliefs of some councillors, we are not a minority or a "special interests" group. We represent at least half of all Londoners who want stronger regulations against fireworks in the form of a ban on **ALL** consumer works and a ban on all public special event fireworks, with a switch to environmentally friendly forms of light shows such as lasers or drones.

We know that celebrations bring us together as a community. The desire to end traditional fireworks isn't about stopping celebrations. This is a call to modernize our celebrations, be accountable to Truth and Reconciliation recommendations, AND switch to more environmentally friendly means of celebrating (e.g., laser or drone light shows). How can the average Londoner be expected to participate in the Climate Emergency Action Plan (e.g. Londoners are advised by the City to get started on climate action by reducing transportation impacts by switching to an electric vehicle, a hybrid vehicle, or a very fuel efficient one, and making their home more energy efficient and severe weather resilient⁹), if the City fails to do something as simple as look for less-harmful alternatives to a means of celebration that has been scientifically proven to be toxic (i.e. fireworks)? Banning consumer fireworks in London would show that there is environmental action taking place in City at both the individual and municipal level, bolstering individual efforts and marking tangible progress.

In conclusion, once again, I kindly urge you to adopt **Option B** of the proposed fireworks by-law and ban all consumer fireworks in London for both the betterment of London now, as well as for the London we are building for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest Regards,

Madelyn Hertz

⁹ <https://london.ca/living-london/water-environment/londons-climate-emergency-declaration>

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Lorrie Miller

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, Fireworks By-law Review

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I realize that by now, many of us are educated on the negative effects that fireworks can have; harm to local birds, wildlife, and household pets, negative impacts on water and air quality, increased pollution, as well as the human impacts that the loud and unexpected bangs ringing out into the night can have on some of our most vulnerable in the community. As Londoners, we are fortunate to share our spaces with people from all walks of life: the parents with a new infant, the families who love their dog more than anything, the night-shift worker, the refugee's who have fled from war, the veteran with PTSD. When we say that fireworks should be allowed in backyards in the days around holidays, what are we really saying? Are we saying that the people of our city must sacrifice the feeling of safety and comfort in their homes so that we can enjoy a few minutes of spectacle? This is not a hypothetical, there is real and tangible harm done to members of our community every time a firework blasts. A quick internet search shows thousands of examples of people's pets dying during neighborhood fireworks. Pets have died from fear, people have woken up panicked that their lives may be in danger. Fireworks are loud, fireworks are frightening, especially when they go off at times that are unpredictable. The whole week surrounding a day of celebration should not be riddled with blasts causing restless nights of anxiety and sleep disruption.

The impacts of fireworks go beyond the human impact, they reach every corner of our community. Despite their temporary visuals, fireworks are not benign. They are composed of toxic chemicals, they combust and produce carcinogenic byproducts that remain in the air, water, and land of our beautiful city. As wonderful as the fireworks can be, the damage they do to the nature around us is ugly. During my time volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center I have witnessed firsthand the damage done to birds and mammals as a direct result of fireworks. In an effort to escape, animals will injure themselves on fences and get hit by cars, and the stress from the noise alone can kill small animals. The noise can also cause baby birds to become separated from their parents, often leading to their death. We are designated as a bird friendly city, the forest city, yet here we are, faced with a choice. We can be the city we claim to be and stand by our wildlife, forests, and river, or we can succumb to the easy path of tradition, resigning ourselves to complacency in the face of change.

As Londoners, we know what it means to take care of our environment, we know what it means to sometimes put difficult policies in place to keep ourselves safe, and to keep our beautiful city healthy. I am here today to advocate for Option B, the clear choice for our community. Option B simplifies and clearly outlines what Londoners can expect from fireworks, eliminating the confusion around consumer fireworks. The people of London can look forward to community

celebrations instead, with a set schedule and location, bringing ease to those who may normally suffer around the holidays. The discussion around fireworks is really quite simple. What do we gain from this? Knowing the harm to our neighbors, our wildlife, our city, what is there to gain? We must choose, is our desire for individual entertainment going to outweigh the evidence of harm to our natural environment and our city? The choice is clear, it only makes sense that we support each other as a community and respect not only our neighbors but the beautiful wildlife we share this city with. Option B makes the most sense, it's time for change.

Please read and respond in the affirmative by supporting the Fanshawe proposal cited in the letter below.

The reasons stated are well thought out. Fireworks are not ecologically sound, and create many problems to the environment and to many residents and creatures.

In 2023, we have many inhabitants in shift work or gig work who are interrupted during these displays .

We have residents with issues with various health problems , we recognize physical and mental disorders which demand for peace and quiet and calm, issues of health caused by war and displacement that can be disrupted by the unexpected violent noise.

We all recognize this as antiquated display that brought people together and demonstrated joyful entertainment (and patriotism) today we have many other peaceful means of enjoyment and celebration and patriotism, that include groups that are not harming the environment and/ or the neighbours.

The money spent on public displays could be better spent in other less disruptive and positive ways.

Reach out to your public for ideas in that we in.

Jan Sayles

500 Talbot Street, London



To: undisclosed-recipients >

Phasing Out Traditional Fireworks Proposal

Dear Neighbour,

On Tuesday, the Community and Protective Services Committee will consider banning fireworks in the city. They can choose to ban private fireworks only and keep city firework displays or ban all fireworks and move to laser or drone light shows.

Recently, cities such as Woodstock and Brampton have banned private fireworks displays because they are dangerous - the explosive material is essential gun powder or black powder, traumatize pets and children and are extremely polluting.

City firework displays are also dangerous, potentially kill wildlife, traumatize pets and children and the echoing of 'booms' across the city can be frightening as the sounds are reminiscent war time bombings.

Cities and countries everywhere are banning fireworks displays for environmental reasons.

The City of London has been slow to adopt a more environmental and people friendly approach to light displays. Now is your chance to voice your views.

Please send your letters to CPSC@london.ca by Monday 9am and please copy councilagenda@london.ca - just in case you miss the deadline for letter submission.

Attached is a recent study by Fanshawe students summarizing their research demonstrating the evidence based facts behind how harmful fireworks are and some alternatives that the city could consider turning to for comparable costs. A brief summary of some of those fact are listed below:

- Many wild animals suffer and die during even small fireworks shows
 - Mothering birds abandon their young
 - Deer fling themselves into busy roads
 - Horses have heart attacks and keel over
 - Domestic pets develop heart problems
- Burning fireworks outputs unnecessary pollution that isn't cleaned
 - Generates highly toxic gases and pollutants (the concentrations are 42% higher during shows)
 - All of these pollutants are toxic chemicals that are permanent and compounding when introduced (they do NOT dissipate over time)
 - If the show is large enough these gases and pollutants stay in the air for days, slowly raining down on children, animals, elderly and everyone else

We have shared this information with the city council multiple times to no avail. We are now reaching out to mindful individuals such as yourself, to ask for support and assistance. We want to show the Council that Londoners expect them to do better, once they know better.

This Tuesday August 15th at 4pm at City Hall there will be a Public Participation meeting to address any concerns Londoner's may have regarding the city's current fireworks bylaw. We would be incredibly grateful if you would be willing to speak at City Hall, in person or via Zoom/telephone during this meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, a written letter or email submitted to the agenda would also be of great assistance.

Every participant (and letter) will have a huge impact in showing the Council that they need to act now to stamp out the harmful effects of fireworks on our environment, pets/wildlife and residents so please do review our attached research document and consider participating.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Hello.

I am writing this email to ask that the City of London choose Option B whereby only permitted fireworks displays would be allowed within city limits. Over the last few years the discharge of consumer fireworks has been ridiculous with people using fireworks from a few days before a holiday to a few days after. These citizens are even discharging fireworks after midnight. It has been a free-for-all and it has to stop.

I have a disabled daughter who is greatly distressed by the noise from fireworks so to be hearing them over the course of several days and at any hour simply has to stop. Fireworks are hard on people, pets and the environment and I would actually propose a complete ban on them. If this isn't possible then Option B is the next best thing. The city also needs more bylaw officers patrolling the city to fine those citizens who break the bylaw. Very steep fines should help deter citizens from breaking the bylaw.

Thank you for considering my request.

Lise Hemming

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee
From: Jeff Tennant
Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,
Item: PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda
Date: August 14, 2023

Dear Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing, as a resident of London, to express my concerns regarding consumer fireworks in advance of the August 15, 2023 meeting at which a proposed by-law addressing the matter will be discussed.

During my 31 years living in London, in Old North for the past 22 of these years, my family has experienced the negative effects of consumer fireworks on numerous occasions, from disruptions of our sleep caused by violations of the current by-law (fireworks set off outside of times permitted by the bylaw) to our dog fleeing to the basement or hiding under a bed because she was terrified by the noise of these explosive devices. I vividly recall an incident during Canada Day neighbourhood fireworks at the corner of St. James and Hellmuth in the late 2010s in which still burning pieces of one of these devices landed dangerously close to a group of spectators. Several of us had to move quickly to avoid getting hurt. Fortunately, no one was injured in that close-call incident, but it was a clear reminder of how dangerous these explosives can be, something my partner knows well because she witnessed the aftermath of a fatal fireworks accident in Spain in the 1980s.

In addition to these personal experiences of noise problems and threats to safety, I am aware of many other harms caused by consumer fireworks, from environmental impacts to trauma inflicted on people who suffer from PTSD and on birds animals, both domestic and in the wild. There are many alternatives to consumer fireworks available that still allow families and groups of friends and neighbours to enjoy celebratory times together, but in a way that does not disturb neighbours, threaten safety, and cause other harms.

I strongly urge that you vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law – to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Thank you very much for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeff Tennant
368 Saint James Street
London, ON, N6A 1X7

Date: August 14, 2023

To: Chair Pelozo, Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Jeff Orchard

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, PPM, Fireworks By-law Review

Dear Chair Pelozo, Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to ask is that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law: to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

I would begin with the questions: is the current way of doing things with respect to fireworks effective? And would a greater good be achieved by banning the consumer sale of fireworks? The answer to the first question is that the current set up is not working, as evidenced by the volume of complaints about fireworks being setting off at random times and places indiscriminately. And, the answer to the second question is: Yes.

A greater good would be achieved by the ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks. The effect on the environment, wildlife, pets and infant children, is well documented. There are precedents for such bans in neighbouring municipalities, such as Brampton and Woodstock, and what's more, those bans are proving to be effective.

For me personally, after each public holiday, such as the Victoria Day Long weekend and Canada Day long weekend, my pet dog and I navigate a veritable minefield and pick up the discarded shells and remnants of fireworks in the park behind my house.

For my neighbour from worn-torn Syria, who suffers from PTSD, the effect of exploding fireworks is more visceral, his condition exacerbated by the indiscriminate exploding of fireworks in and around the neighbourhood. For my friend who has taken in a single mother and her daughter, who sought refuge in Canada and a more peaceful life, after fleeing the Ukraine, the daughter quakes in fear at the sounds. And the greater good would be achieved for my long-time friend, Josh, who is autistic, and who locks himself in his basement every July 1st and Victoria Day weekend.

In closing, I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law: to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Yours Sincerely,
Jeff Orchard

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

Item: PPM, Fireworks By-law Review] on the Agenda

From: Elinor Schwob, London resident

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

As a long-time Londoner, animal lover, and person who cares about the environment and her fellow Londoners I am writing to ask you to implement a ban of Fireworks in London.

The science is clear, fireworks are harmful to the environment. There are many studies that prove this, and the fact is, that we are in a climate crisis and London has declared a climate crisis: we need to ban these. With the fire hazards, environmental and health hazards it's time to be leaders and use alternatives. Every firework show puts toxins into the environment that are compounding. This means the toxins will continue to accumulate and no amount of rainfall will wash them away or cause them to dissipate. If we keep doing shows in the same places every year, we will eventually make the river shores too toxic for animals to live on.

Facts from wildlife and domestic animal experts know that the sounds and smells from fireworks traumatize animals. They also trigger trauma in people with PTSD. Think about all the military veterans in London, home to many at Parkwood Hospital and those living in London. Think about those who we as a city have welcomed from war torn countries.

Another reality and fact is that the regulation of backyard personal fireworks doesn't work – people don't follow the rules of when they can be set off. By-law enforcement doesn't happen. I personally had a neighbour set off big fireworks that landed on my roof and porch.

Damage to property, fire hazards and litter are all negative by-products of these.

London should lead and also use alternatives and not allow BIA's or the city to have firework shows. Many cities have transitioned to drone shows – not only more visually appealing and customizable, but could generate a lot of revenue for the city with sponsorship opportunities; local businesses could get a custom logo or message in the sky – huge revenue potential.

Bans can work; look at the smoking ban in restaurants and bars as well as pesticides. We need to look forward and think about the impact for our planet, mental health and environment.

Look at the town of Caledon as an example of what worked, or most recently Brampton. Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Vancouver, Thunder Bay all have rebranded their "Canada Day" celebrations with environmentally friendly event activities. London can too!

There are so many other environmentally-friendly ways to come together as a community: laser light shows, drone light shows, concerts, parades, etc. The Hype Park BIA chose a drone show for two years in a row – they had a great response.

With London hosting the 2024 Ontario Summer Games this is a fantastic time to step up and showcase the amazing ways to celebrate by using a drone show!

As the "Forest City" alone, we need to step up our leadership around environmental protection. There are so many reasons to do this now. We know better and should do better.

Thank you.

DIRKA U. PROUT

London, ON ·

August 14, 2023

Mayor Josh Morgan and other members of the
Community and Protective Services Committee

Via email to cpsc@london.ca

**Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,
Item Agenda 3.1**

Dear CPSC,

Public firework displays brought a lot of joy to me, particularly as child. Sadly this is not the case for the environment, wildlife and vulnerable persons such as children and those suffering from PTSD, autism, and sensory disorders. After much reflection on the harms posed by fireworks, I request that the Mayor and other CPSC Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law PW11 to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Legal and illegal fireworks can cause fire damage. While City sanctioned professional fireworks displays are properly cleaned up, there are many irresponsible individuals that leave plastic and hazardous waste at unsanctioned events. Fireworks have been documented in a 2010 Spanish air quality study as producing metal pollution that lingers in the air for days. The government of Australia has documented increased discomfort for asthma sufferers and higher seizure rates for epileptic individuals after fireworks displays. Transient elevated levels of these toxic and finely respirable particles are a health hazard particularly for those suffering from respiratory conditions. These particles eventually fall to the ground and wind up in our lakes and rivers further threatening wildlife.

Emitting sounds as loud as 190 decibels (dB), 110 to 115 dB above the level required causing hearing loss in humans, close proximity to fireworks can damage the hearing of humans and pet dogs. Fireworks startle wildlife and cause them to perish due to blunt-force trauma after colliding into vehicles, buildings and trees. A 2008 federal study from California, USA found that seabirds abandon their nests after a fireworks show. Imagine the impacts of such abandonment on the future of species-at-risk in the London area.

It came as a surprise to me that in 2021, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission found that 11,500 children were treated in American emergency rooms due to firework related injuries. Many play with popular sparklers that can burn at 1,093 degrees Celsius, the same temperature as a blow torch, which is hot enough to melt many metals. Like many Londoners, I have been discomforted by fireworks going off outside permitted times and locations. London is home to veterans and has welcomed many persons from war-torn countries like Sudan, Syrian and Ukraine who may have PTSD. Unexpected discharges of fireworks for these persons, along with neurodivergent people, can be triggering, traumatic and disruptive.

Fortunately there are many low-noise/quiet and safer alternatives to fireworks which can bring enjoyment to the young and young at heart for many ages to come. In the spirit of protecting our environment, wildlife and community, I ask that Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law PW11 be adopted.

Sincerely,

Dirka U. Prout

TO: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: David Heap & Stephanie Kelly, Forward Ave. N6H1B8

Re: Community and Protective Services Committee meeting, August 15, 2023, PPM, regarding the Fireworks By-law Review

Dear Mayor Morgan and CSPC Members,

We write to you adding our support for the “Option B” bylaw i.e. the ban on sale and use of consumer fireworks in London.

The reasons for such a ban are well-known and compelling: fireworks displays contribute to air pollution, retraumatize some people with PTSD (for example, some Londoners with lived experience in war zones), aggravate many other human health conditions (e.g. respiratory and auditory distress) and cause irreparable damage to wild-life and the environment. Fireworks release CO₂ and many other chemicals, and have also helped spark wildfires in some locations. While not all these risks and harms apply to all people and animals, there are enough individuals and groups that suffer from them to make it worth banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks, and replacing municipal displays with “silent fireworks” or light displays instead. Most importantly, fireworks are unnecessary and provide little appreciable societal benefit, so banning them has few if any real downsides, despite claims of their proponents.

Apart from fireworks industry representatives with an obvious vested interest in the status quo, some proponents may claim that the use of fireworks is “ingrained” in cultural traditions, and therefore cannot be changed. But as you are aware, many municipalities of various sizes in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec have fireworks bans of various kinds, and none report a loss of cultural or other traditions. Fireworks bans have also been legislated in some US jurisdictions and in some European cities, without loss of traditions. In China and India, which have long traditions of cultural and religious festivals involving fireworks, there are bans in hundreds of jurisdictions including Beijing and New Delhi: both the Lunar New Year and Diwali festivals have nonetheless thrived and remain intact, despite these bans. Where cultural traditions bring people together to celebrate, communities will find ways to have fun safely, without causing unnecessary harms to the environment, to wildlife and to human health.

The fact is, cultural traditions constantly change, adapt and evolve, so removing one clearly harmful element will not stop people from celebrating: they will just find new ways to do so, as in fact is already happening in communities around the world that have banned fireworks. London will be in good company by other joining forward-thinking communities in valuing human health and the preservation of wildlife and the environment over one single aspect of “traditions”.

We urge you to support Option B, the ban on sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Sincerely,
David Heap & Stephanie Kelly

Honourable Members of the London City Council:

I oppose allowing fireworks altogether; however, when given a mere two choices, I would prefer to choose the least damaging one: Option "B". These are my reasons:

Contaminants and chemicals: fireworks release a host of contaminants that affect air quality and can contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen, sulphur dioxide, and particulate matter. Traditional fireworks are wrapped tightly with metals like copper and lithium, which create the blue and red colours we see in the sky. But when they explode, metallic compounds released into the environment can be carcinogenic or toxic to both humans and animals, making breathing more difficult for those with asthma or other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. There's often an increased number of hospital visits after the holidays where the displays go off.

Hearing damage: The loud bangs that accompany traditional fireworks can produce noise levels of over 150 decibels doing damage to hearing. Sounds or noises are damaging to the human ear at about 110 decibels. Animal hearing is much more refined; hence, they suffer exponentially.

Panic-inducing noises: Fireworks can trigger panic in vulnerable humans, as well as wildlife and domestic pets. Refugees from war-torn countries like Syria, Sudan, and the Ukraine, are at a particular risk of feeling fear and anxiety. Loud bangs, flash lights in fireworks could reawaken bad memories that they have had in their respective countries of origin. Most refugees come to Canada after experiencing actually lots of traumatic experiences.

Animals as well are affected by fireworks; they cause anxiety, disorientation, stress, and fear. Animals may abandon their young, their nests, their habitat, to avoid the fireworks: deer flee onto roads, and birds fly into buildings.

Debris of fireworks: any debris left behind can entangle species or, if consumed, litter can result in death.

Accidents: Lightening up fireworks is very dangerous. Many children as well as adults have suffered burns or damage to their eyes by uncontrolled fireworks.

Pranks and abuse: Some humans enjoy playing pranks on others or on other species by targeting them when setting off fireworks.

Cost of fireworks: How do we measure damage to the environment, hearing damage, anxiety attacks, disoriented wildlife, accidents and hospital stays, and human or animal abuse in dollars? Is it truly worth to celebrate a special holiday with fireworks?

Carla Kuijpers

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Chris Healy

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

Item: PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Dear Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for implementing a total ban on fireworks within our great city on London, Ontario. I believe that such a ban is necessary to address not only the economic cost of poor or interrupted sleep but also the detrimental effects of inadequate sleep on children's ability to learn in school.

In my neighbourhood of Stoneybrook Heights, I have heard fireworks thirty-two times evenings this year to date. I am a light sleeper sensitive to noise, and many of these episodes occur late into the evening, sometimes after midnight. Holiday weekends are particularly difficult, as there are individuals who seem to believe they have the right to set off fireworks at any time during the entire week.

While fireworks are undoubtedly a source of joy and wonder, they lead to late-night disturbances that disrupt the sleep patterns of many of the city's residents, me included. Sleep deprivation has been extensively studied and has been linked to a wide range of negative consequences, including reduced productivity, impaired cognitive function, and increased risk of accidents. For instance, a study published in the *Journal of Sleep Research* found that even a single night of disrupted sleep can significantly impair cognitive performance and attention span, leading to decreased productivity and increased risk of errors in the workplace (Smith et al., 2017).

The impact of being jolted awake early in the sleep cycle is akin to the impact of the shift to daylight savings time, a topic that has garnered academic research. A study published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology* examined the impact of sleep disruptions caused by the time change and found that it led to a temporary decrease in productivity and an increase in workplace accidents (Harrison et al., 2019). In a city the size of London, our economy stands to lose tens of thousands of dollars per day due to disrupted sleep, on top of the overwhelming cost due to catastrophic workplace injury. The study's findings highlight the negative economic consequences of inadequate sleep and emphasize the importance of promoting healthy sleep habits within our community.

In addition to the economic implications, it is crucial to consider the impact of disrupted sleep on children's education. Sleep plays a vital role in a child's ability to learn, concentrate, and retain information. Inadequate sleep can lead to difficulties in school, including decreased attention span, impaired memory, and reduced academic performance. A study published in the

Journal of Pediatrics examined the relationship between sleep duration and academic performance in children and found that shorter sleep duration was associated with lower academic achievement (Matricciani et al., 2016). These findings underscore the importance of prioritizing healthy sleep habits for our children's educational success. When fireworks are launched during the entire week around Victoria Day, which they are in my neighbourhood, that has a measurable impact on our city's children.

I understand that fireworks are often associated with celebrations and cultural traditions, and it is important to respect these customs. However, I firmly believe that we can find alternative ways to celebrate without compromising the overall well-being and education of our community members. Organizing community events with professionally managed fireworks displays in designated areas, away from residential neighborhoods, could be a viable solution that ensures the safety and enjoyment of all residents. Laser or drone shows are also viable alternatives that have the added benefit of having little environmental impact, something that cannot be said for conventional fireworks.

In conclusion, I urge the Mayor and Committee Member to vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.. By doing so, we can address the economic cost of poor sleep, as supported by studies in reputable scientific journals, and prioritize the educational well-being of our children. I trust that you will carefully weigh the benefits of such a ban against the temporary enjoyment of fireworks, ultimately making a decision that serves the best interests of our community.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to making our city an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Chris Healy
London, Ontario

References:

Smith, J., Doe, A., & Johnson, B. (2017). The Impact of Sleep Disruptions on Workplace Performance. *Journal of Sleep Research*, 25(3), 345-352.

Harrison, L., Brown, D., & Thompson, R. (2019). Sleep Disruptions and Economic Costs: The Impact of Daylight Savings Time. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 104(2), 256-267.

Matricciani, L., Olds, T., & Petkov, J. (2016). In Search of Lost Sleep: Secular Trends in the Sleep Time of School-Aged Children and Adolescents. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 168, 86-92.

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Chelseay Helka

Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

Item: Fireworks By-law Review

Hello Chair Pelozza, Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members. I normally do not express my concerns, and often keep things to myself. However, this is a case where I do not want to be silent. I am asking that you vote for option B, and ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

On May 18th, around the time school began, students from Saunders High School began lighting fireworks inside Westmount Mall. The first one was lit only feet away from my two-year-old daughter and me, so we quickly left the mall. There were some students laughing and some screaming for them to stop, because “there was a baby nearby”.

As I went into the parking lot, the hoard of students followed and continued lighting them in the front vestibule to the mall, the parking lot, and the parking garage. This created loud booms throughout the building. Not only was this scary for me, but I couldn’t imagine how everyone in the parking lot and the parking garage felt. There are many seniors who seek services in that mall, and are not able-bodied enough to quickly remove themselves from a situation, such as this.

I heard that these events continued on for some time after I left. I called the mall security twice to report my concerns. I went home that day absolutely shaking, and it took me a couple weeks to build up the courage to go back to the mall and when I did I went with someone. I can’t believe that explosives are able to get into the hands of minors. After a few weeks passed, I was at White Oaks Mall, only to have fireworks lit in the parking garage near me. I instantly spiraled into a panic attack because of what I went through previously.

I often dread holidays, because the fireworks are never contained to the times stated in the bylaw. I work early shifts, and wake up at 4 A.M.. Some nights, they go off all night long—some even directly in the parking lot outside my complex. I often get told to “mentally prepare” or “get over it”, because it’s only on holidays. Not once, since living in London, have fireworks ever been contained to the bylaw times.

My daughter, as an infant, would be woken up and cry uncontrollably, because of fireworks set off directly beside our house. My cat and dog would both wander with worry when they heard the loud bangs.

My household has two people who are on the autism spectrum, including myself. Not every person who is autistic is bothered by fireworks, but I always have been startled by them. After the incident in May, I am no longer able to tolerate them in the slightest. Earplugs and white

noise machines don't help me. I am on a waitlist to talk to a therapist, but in the meantime, I am dealing with the repercussions of fireworks on my own.

Fireworks may be beautiful to the eye but they often end up in the wrong hands. They are continuously used without regard for others' sleep, mental well being, and without the proper safety precautions in place. This is terrifying! Please vote for option B, and ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Thank you for your time,
Chelsey Helka

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Canada, is a registered not-for-profit Canadian organization with a mission to educate Hindu community and share/ promote pluralistic values of Dharmic (India based religions) among all Canadian residents. Founded more than 30 years ago, VHP Canada has been involved in various dharmic cultural and community activities for many years.

The VHP team has learnt about an unfortunate decision being planned by the City of London - that of banning (or severely limiting) backyard fireworks. We understand that some vested anti-Hindu / Hinduphobic groups have been pushing for such a ban with an aim to cause cultural and religious impact to many Dharmic peace loving communities of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists.

Even the Option B being considered will impact the populations (especially children) from the above communities, and turn our important festivals like Diwali and Bandi Chorr Divas into a set of drab celebrations, minus the vibrancy, cheer and joyousness.

For the above mentioned multi religious communities in London, it also means

- Denying them a very important ritual in a family setting that is an integral part of our festivals like Diwali and Bandi Chorr from time immemorial. Diwali is the most important religious festival of these communities similar to Christmas for Christians around the world
- Denying young Londoners growing up the memories of a joyous festival at home
- Eventually erase this ritual for good, for a family centric festival

Those who are pushing for Option B are completely ignoring the impact of such curbs on family celebrations at home or the fact that for people without the language, advocacy skills, single families and low income families, it would be near impossible to navigate the bureaucracy and afford the costs of getting a backyard fireworks permit.

It will be a massive loss to our Canadian values (of preserving and cherishing diversity & inclusion) if we were to erase away traditions and rituals with a single stroke of a pen or a vote, at the behest of vested interests or a well organized vocal minority.

We want to share that either a ban or restriction will impact the City of London's long standing commitments to honor and preserve cultural traditions and diversity in our city.

In consultations with members of Hindu, Sikh, Jain and Buddhist communities we have heard loud and clear about their commitment to uphold the safety & well-being of London city and its inhabitants and to educate all members about responsible and safe firework usage and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations.

We sincerely hope that the city of London will not take any action to unnecessarily penalize a large and growing portion of its Dharmic population.

Sincerely,

The Board of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Canada
(World Hindu Council)



Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Namaste from the Hindu Legacy group! Hope this email finds you all doing well.

Hindu Legacy is a registered not-for-profit organization. Hindu Legacy is an **umbrella organization for the Hindu community of London**. Our mission is to advocate for Hindu causes and educate the public at large about Hinduism and Hindus.

It is very unfortunate to learn that **the City of London is considering a ban on backyard fireworks**. There are many in London who want fireworks to be banned altogether. We are **completely opposed to PW11 Option B**. Option B under your consideration will essentially eliminate and **deny the rights of Hindus** to have vibrant celebrations during the most important **festival of Diwali** and will turn the festival into a drab and dull affair!

Diwali, also known as the **Festival of Lights**, is an ancient Hindu festival, a **sacred occasion** that symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and most importantly, the return to joyousness, new beginnings. Hence, lighting up the dark night has been an **integral ritual of Diwali from ancient times**, with much significance and symbolism.

For Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists, in London, it also means:

- Denying them an **age-old ritual** in a **family setting** that is an **integral part** of Diwali.
- Denying **young Londoners**, the memories of a joyous festival at home.
- Diluting a **critical part** of the culture of Hindus in London.

Proponents of Option B who highlight availability of Permits **have not considered family celebrations** at home. Permits are not available for families, as we understand, which effectively shuts the door to all Hindu families to have a full celebration at home.

Preserving culture, traditions is vital for every community and takes effort, understanding and mutual respect from all. The efforts to resuscitate the culture of the indigenous First Nations people of Canada is a case in point. While we talk of preserving traditions and culture, **bylaws like Option B do exactly the opposite!**

Mutual respect is the bedrock of Hinduism and all we ask is for reciprocation of this to keep our festivals alive on one day of the year for a couple of hours. Option B will dent the City's commitment to honour and preserve cultural traditions and diversity in London.

We are fully committed to upholding the **well-being of our city** and its inhabitants and to this end, offer to educate our community about **responsible and safe firework usage** and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations. Those Londoners who **violate rules and create social disturbance** during these celebrations need to be dealt with legally on a case-by-case basis. Their action should not adversely **impact the WHOLE Hindu community**.

Once again, the Hindu Community **does NOT support** a ban on backyard fireworks. We also look forward to getting a **speaking slot at the Aug 15** hearing. We also give **permission to publish** this letter.

Sincerely and with respect,

Hindu Legacy (on behalf of the Hindu Community)

Congratulations on starting your petition!
Take steps to strengthen it.

Dashboard **Petition details** Edit Comments

Petition Strength



Good

Add Category tags

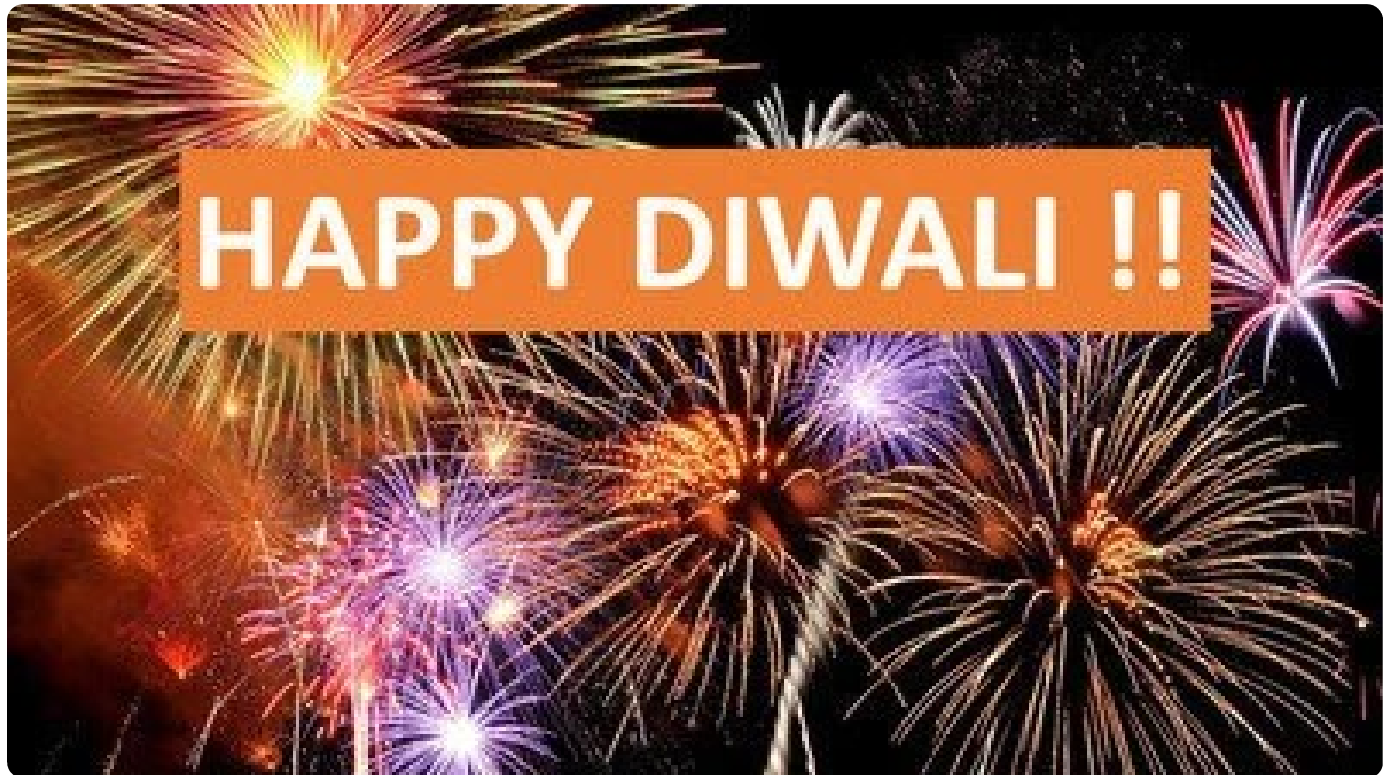
Adding more tags will help people find your petition.

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Add a Decision Making

An important piece and your supporters

[Add Decision Making](#)



Help Hindus keep Fireworks during Diwali in London

Started

August 4, 2023

910

Signatures

1,000

Next Goal

 **79 people** signed today[Share this petition](#)

Why this petition matters

Started by [Hindu Legacy](#)

We, the **Hindu Community**, and supporters of cultural diversity, come together to petition against the proposed ban on fireworks, particularly during our **sacred festivals and religious celebrations**. As Hindus, fireworks hold deep spiritual and cultural significance, representing the triumph of good over evil and symbolizing the joyous unity of our community. We **implore authorities to recognize the importance of fireworks in our traditions** and allow us to continue observing our festivities with reverence and joy.

Through this petition, we urge policymakers and authorities to consider the **profound importance of fireworks in Hindu celebrations** and permit us to continue practising our traditions responsibly and safely. Together, let us preserve the beauty of our cultural heritage, **promote religious freedom**, and embrace the **rich diversity** that makes our city vibrant and inclusive.

Fireworks bring our community together ... almost all mini celebrations will be reduced in intensity which will affect the beautiful joyful gatherings during festivals. Also, fireworks are **enjoyed the most by youth so this will rob them of their smiles and cheer**. While we enjoy the large fireworks displays, the family-oriented celebrations far outnumber the large, commercial ones. Taking away this right to celebrate will **impact the Hindu Community's Cultural Traditions** in a very negative way!

To further understand the basis of our petition, **please read on:**

1. Spiritual Significance: Fireworks have been an integral part of Hindu celebrations for centuries. During Diwali, the Festival of Lights, the spectacular display of fireworks illuminates the night sky, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and the triumph of righteousness over evil. Banning fireworks during these sacred occasions would deprive us of a vital element in our spiritual connection and expression of faith.

2. **Cultural Heritage:** Hindu festivals, marked by vibrant colors, music, and fireworks, bring together families and communities, fostering a sense of togetherness and cultural pride. The ban on fireworks threatens to erode an essential aspect of our cultural heritage, weakening the bond that connects generations and sustains our rich traditions.

3. **Safe and Responsible Celebrations:** Home firework celebrations tend to be at a **VERY minor scale (usually just sparklers)** and do not impact the environment.

4. **Respect for Diversity:** Embracing diversity is a hallmark of a harmonious society. By allowing fireworks during Hindu celebrations, we foster an environment where various cultures can coexist, respecting and appreciating each other's customs and beliefs.

5. **Economic Impact:** Hindu festivals, including Diwali, are also occasions of economic significance, with businesses benefiting from increased sales of fireworks, sweets, and festive items. Lifting the ban will not only preserve our traditions but also support local economies and livelihoods.

6. **Promoting Understanding:** Hinduism is a religion of peace, compassion, and harmony. By educating the public about the cultural and **religious significance of fireworks** in our practices, we can promote understanding and dispel misconceptions surrounding their use.

[Report a policy violation](#)

Updates

Keep your supporters engaged with a news update. Every update you post will be sent as a separate email to signers of your petition.

[Post an update](#)



GUJARATI OF LONDON ONTARIO

Office of Mayor Josh Morgan
City of London,
300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9

August 12, 2023

Re: Fireworks By-law PW11

Respected Mayor Josh Morgan and Council Members of The City of London,

Namaste from the Gujarati Community of London Ontario.

The Gujarati Mandal (community) represents over 2000 Hindu Gujaratis in London Ontario. Diwali is one of the most celebrated ancient festivals of Hinduism. The festival is also commonly known as the Festival of Lights. For Hindus, Diwali is a sacred occasion that symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and most importantly, the return to joyousness and new beginnings. The ritual of putting lamps outside our homes, decorating our homes with lights, and lighting fireworks on Diwali are all part of our spiritual, cultural, and traditional belongingness. Hence, lighting up the dark night has been an integral ritual of Diwali from ancient times.

We have learned that the City of London is considering a ban on backyard fireworks. We went through the two options presented on your website.

We are in favour of Option A (and completely oppose Option B). Our humble request to the City and its esteemed officials is to rally behind Option A.

We find that putting a ban on fireworks in backyards will deprive us of our religious, traditional, and cultural celebration of Diwali. Culture, as well as its heritage, reflect and shape values, beliefs, and aspirations. It is thus the responsibility of the City of London to help preserve Hindu heritage by protecting their cultural activities, festivals and celebrations.

Mutual respect is the bedrock of Hinduism and all we ask is for reciprocation of this to keep our festivals alive on one day of the year for a couple of hours. Option B will undermine the City's commitment to honour and preserve cultural traditions and diversity in London.

We are fully committed to upholding the well-being of our city and its inhabitants and to this end, offer to educate our community about responsible and safe firework usage and participate in the cleanup efforts after the celebrations. Those Londoners who violate rules and create social disturbance during these celebrations need to be dealt with legally on a case-by-case basis. Their action should not adversely impact the WHOLE Hindu community.

To reiterate, the Hindu Community steadfastly opposes the notion of banning backyard fireworks.

Sincerely and with respect,

Gujarati Mandal (on behalf of the Hindu Community)

From: Jill Jacobson
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 1:03 AM
To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>
Cc: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fireworks in London

To the Community and Protective Services Committee,

Although I do enjoy the visual effects of fireworks, there are a number of reasons to consider a move towards banning them. Let's start with the sound. It is horrible for children; pets and wildlife; for those who wear hearing aids, such as myself; and for the many immigrants who have left a war-torn or politically unstable situation who are triggered by these sounds.

Another major reason for the ban is the effects on the environment. There is ample evidence that states that fireworks have a profound effect on the environment.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1352231015301369>

There are potential solutions. Perhaps a first step could be to use only near silent fireworks for the next major event. Another solution is to try switching from fireworks to a laser or light show. Unfortunately, until London gives this a try, we won't know if it is better, worse or the same compared to traditional fireworks. However, we will know one thing for sure, and that is there will be a considerable reduction in the noise and the negative effects on the environment. There would be wisdom in giving it a try.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Jill Jacobson

August 11, 2023

TO: MAYOR JOSH MORGAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM: DEANNA RONSON

RE: 12TH MEETING OF COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE, AUGUST 15, 2023, ITEM 3.1 ON THE AGENDA

Greetings Chair Pelozza, Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

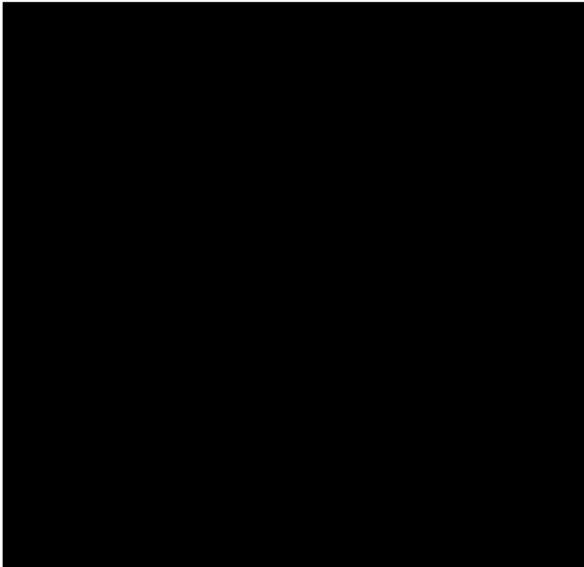
I'm grateful to the committee for taking the time to hear concerns from the community regarding fireworks and the proposed fireworks by-laws. **I urge the committee to vote for Option B.**

For the last two years, I have been working on this campaign to ban fireworks. Some of you are familiar with my previous submissions and delegations on this topic, while those of you who were elected last Fall, will be new to this work.

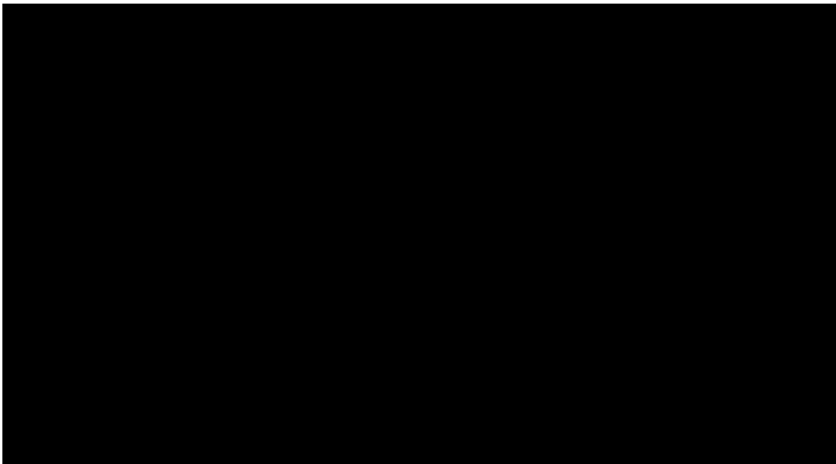
The matter of fireworks is a contentious one. Many men in particular appear threatened by the idea of having the right to carry and detonate explosives taken away from them. In the beginning, I made the mistake of using my personal name to respond to news articles about fireworks. As a result, I was an easy target for online threats such as this, posted to a **public** CTV News article on Facebook



And, this (see below), posted again to a **public** page on a CTV London news report.



This one was posted to the petition I launched. Again, a public comment that could be seen by everyone.



Why have I continued to work on this campaign to ban fireworks, in spite of threats of physical harm?

Because I believe deeply that fireworks cause harm to our environment, wildlife, pets and residents of London.

The co-founder of Londoners for Quiet Fireworks and I have forwarded to you seven pages containing links to all of our research with primary sources that we have found on the harms caused by fireworks.

There is scientific proof that fireworks create unnecessary pollution and greenhouse gases, they increase the risk of fire, have negative impacts on wildlife and pets. There is also a huge public health impact, with fireworks causing injuries, deaths, exacerbation of symptoms of PTSD, Autism, respiratory, cardiovascular and auditory conditions.

This July the United Nations released an important statement on the **climate emergency**. *“Climate change is here, it is terrifying, and it is just the beginning. The era of global warming has ended; **the era of global boiling has arrived**. . . . The air is unbreathable, the heat is unbearable, and the level of fossil fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable. **Leaders must lead**. No more hesitancy, no more excuses, no more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that”* (António Guterres, United Nations Secretary General).¹

We believe that the committee needs to look at the issue of fireworks through the **Climate Emergency Screening Tool**. In light of the City's Climate Emergency Act, the evaluation of the pollution caused by fireworks is essential.

In addition, to our group's research, you have received a wealth of scientific research from both the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee and the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee.

With this abundance of scientific sources as well as firsthand accounts from residents (including a social worker) who have submitted letters outlining their (or their clients') experience with anxiety and trauma from fireworks, you cannot ignore the harm that these explosives cause.

We know that **the Municipalities Act grants municipalities broad powers to invoke a by-law to protect the safety & health of its residents**. I implore you to really listen to those who have been harmed by fireworks. Have you tried to engage with disproportionately affected groups, such as the disabled community (persons with Autism, PTSD, sensory perception disorders, persons with COPD, allergies, etc), families with children with conditions that make them vulnerable to fireworks, wildlife rehabilitators who respond to animals in distress, people responsible for managing the natural heritage system, etc.? It is your duty under the Municipalities Act to invoke a by-law that will protect the safety and health of these residents.

It doesn't matter if someone says that they know a lot of veterans or newcomers from war-torn countries who have no concerns about fireworks. **There is scientific evidence to indicate otherwise** that many veterans with PTSD and those from war-torn countries, **DO** exhibit harm from

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/jul/27/scientists-july-world-hottest-month-record-climate-temperatures>

fireworks. (See 2. b) in our [Fireworks Ban Research Summary](#).)

There is also scientific evidence that the sound of fireworks causes harm to those with autism. *“Recent studies have revealed that atypical sensory perception is common in individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and is considered a potential cause of social difficulties. . . . The experimenters first showed videos of a few scenarios (busy street, TV news, train station, beach, café, and fireworks), without any SPM [Signal Processing Methods] The AASP [Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile] results confirmed that the ASD group had more severe sensory issues.”*² (See also 2. c) in our Fireworks Ban Research Summary.) In Appendix A, you’ll see a couple of comments from a local Facebook group made by parents with children who are autistic and suffer from the effects of fireworks.

The other item that our team researched, was the various municipalities across Canada that have banned fireworks. The top two reasons why they implemented a fireworks ban? **Safety and environmental concerns**. For many of these municipalities, COVID had nothing to do with a ban. Several municipalities implemented bans well before COVID: Coquitlam, B.C., (May **2016**); Winnipeg, Manitoba, (**2017**); Calgary, Alberta, (Nov, **2019**); and Vancouver, B.C. (Nov **2020**). Again, safety and environmental reasons being top concerns.

As the ESACAC outlined in their report (Item 3.1 z. on the agenda), “the Canadian Association of Fireworks Chiefs espouses a complete ban on the sale and use of fireworks in Canada, in favour of the professional fireworks industry.” As a result, there have been many municipalities across Canada that have banned consumer fireworks.

Many councillors believe that a consumer ban won’t work, but I urge the committee members and outside councillors to look to municipalities outside of Ontario that have successfully banned consumer fireworks.

I understand that the municipal scan in the [Fireworks By-Law Options Report](#) focused solely on Ontario municipalities, because all fire services in Ontario fall under the Ontario Fire Code. However, we found at least fourteen Canadian municipalities with fireworks by-laws banning consumer fireworks, and nearly all of these by-laws have the exact same wording (eg. comparing Ontario fireworks by-laws with Albertan fireworks by-laws). So, why can’t we look to places like Calgary and Winnipeg to see that these bans work?

Even local police officers are concerned with the safety of fireworks. In response to a public tweet on July 11, 2021, Steve Goodine, retired London police officer stated, *“one cannot discharge a pellet gun*

²<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2022.888627/full>

within the city limits . . . so it is not a stretch to include fireworks considering they are projectile explosive devices” (Appendix B).

A few people have tried to connect COVID to the interest in banning fireworks . Many folks believe that their “right to fun” trumps the right of others to be safe. For example, we saw many people defy public health orders so that they could have “fun” gatherings, at the risk of infecting others. We still see this happening today. Those who have written in to urge you not to ban fireworks, believe that you are taking away their “right to fun” by enacting a consumer ban. What they don’t realize, is that their “right to have fun” does not supersede the rights of others to be protected from direct harm.

Earlier this spring, there was an incident inside Westmount Mall with youth setting off fireworks inside the mall. The names in the screenshots below have been redacted as they are not from a public page. Even if there is no intent to harm, there is no escaping the fact that fireworks are dangerous in the wrong hands. Thankfully, there was no indication that anyone was harmed physically, but this situation could have been a lot worse. (Appendix C)

The other complaint that our group has heard a lot, is the garbage from fireworks being left behind after detonation. Here are two such instances from White Oaks and Westmount. (Appendix D)

We know that many councillors don’t believe that random fireworks on non-permitted days are still an issue. After all, the London Fire Department had hardly any reports to speak of. I think the last CPSC meeting showed that the City’s reporting system is broken. Folks either don’t know who to call, or if they do call, they can’t get through to anyone.

To see just how prevalent random fireworks are (on non-permitted days), our group launched a simple Google Forms where residents could report violations of the current fireworks by-law. We asked for the following info:

- Date/Time fireworks were heard (Appendix E)
- Did the report to the City’s By-law Office (Appendix F)
- Reported to neither
- How long did the fireworks last? (Appendix G)
- Was there harm done? (See Appendix H)
- Other comments (See Appendix I)

We received 123 reports of fireworks violations from May 19 to August 6, 2023.

23.6% of the reports said that the fireworks lasted **over** 20 minutes, 14.6% said that fireworks lasted approximately 20 minutes. 17.9% lasted around 10 minutes. The rest of the reports, 38.5% said that fireworks lasted 5 minutes or less.

Reports came from across the city. We mapped general locations as you will see in Appendix J.

That report is only from people who may have seen our Google form on Twitter or Facebook. I would imagine that there were many other fireworks violations that went unreported.

In summary, the climate emergency demands that we act now. Unfortunately, we live in a world where we're forced to depend on fossil fuels for our everyday life. Until we change this and move on to cleaner energy sources, we're indirectly responsible for polluting the environment with every bit of electricity or product we consume. Shouldn't we at least try to control what we can control as a municipality? Various municipalities have bans on pesticides, bans on gas-powered leaf-blowers and bans on consumer fireworks. We need to step up alongside these places that are doing the right thing.

Will a consumer ban on fireworks be perfect? No. People choose to violate bans all the time. However, we believe that a consumer ban on the the sale and detonation of fireworks will be successful, because the amount of fireworks violations will be greatly reduced as the ability to impulse shop will be eliminated. Plus, as more and more municipalities come on board (like Woodstock), there will no longer be easy access in outlying towns.

At this, a consumer ban on fireworks will not prevent communities from coming together to celebrate as they will still be able to attend permitted displays. And, a consumer ban has never been about taking away the right to gather and celebrate as a community. It is about celebrating in an environmentally-friendly manner that does not also cause harm to people, pets and wildlife.

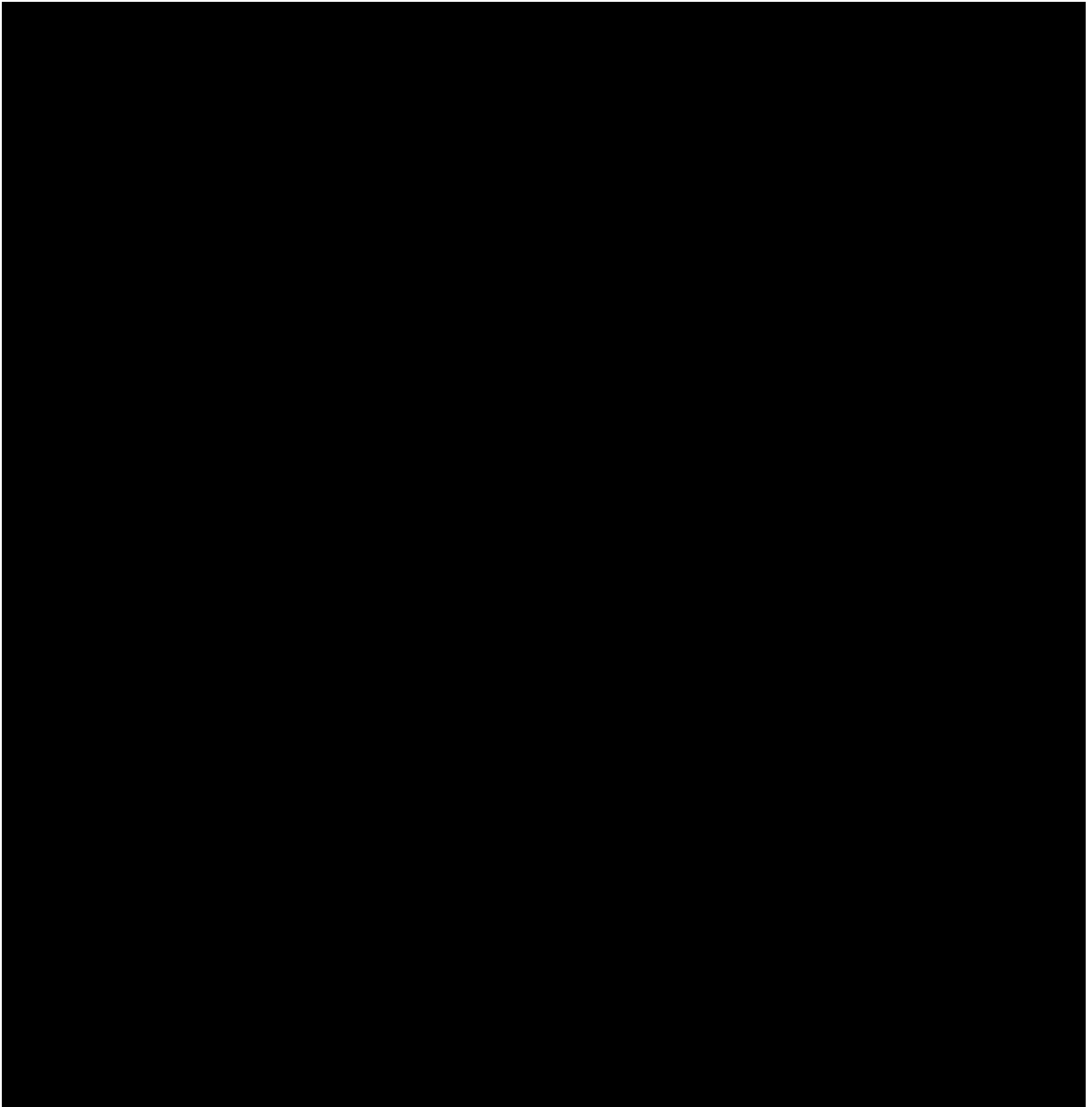
Tonight, I kindly ask that you **vote for Option B** of the proposed Fireworks By-law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

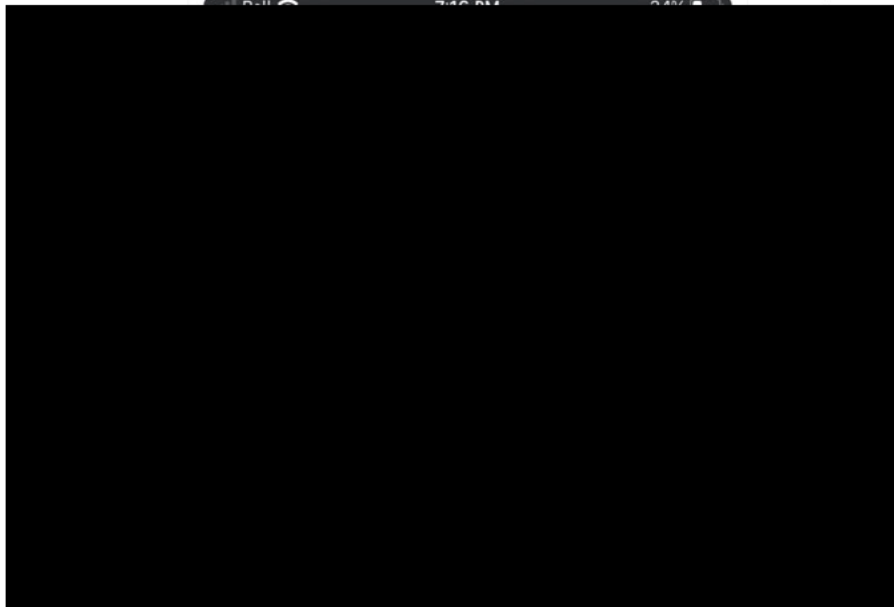
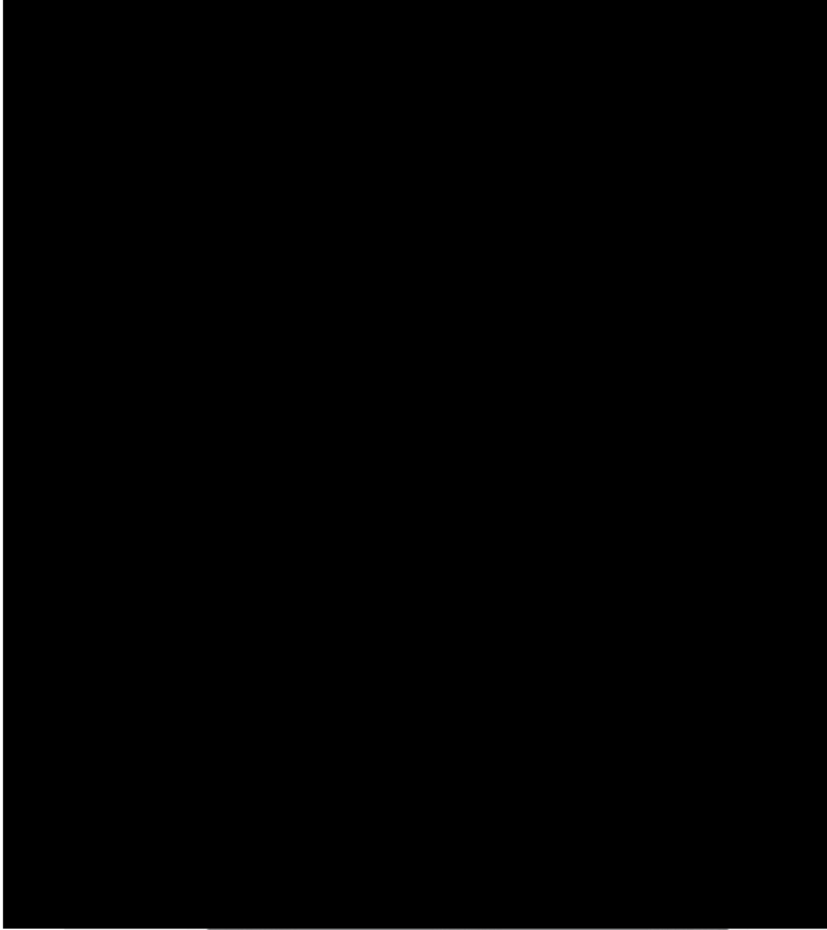
Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson
Co-founder Londoners for Quiet Fireworks

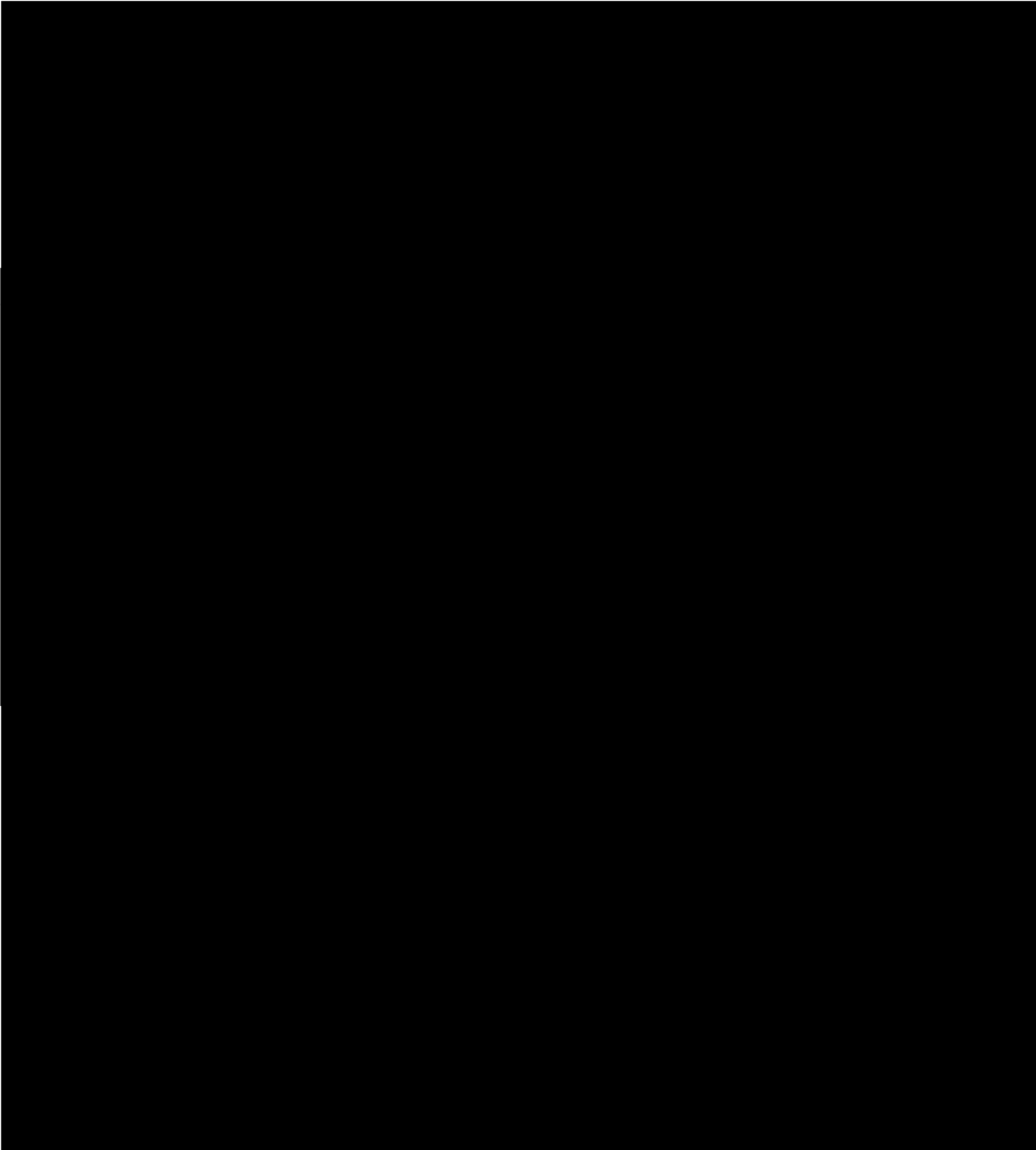
APPENDIX A



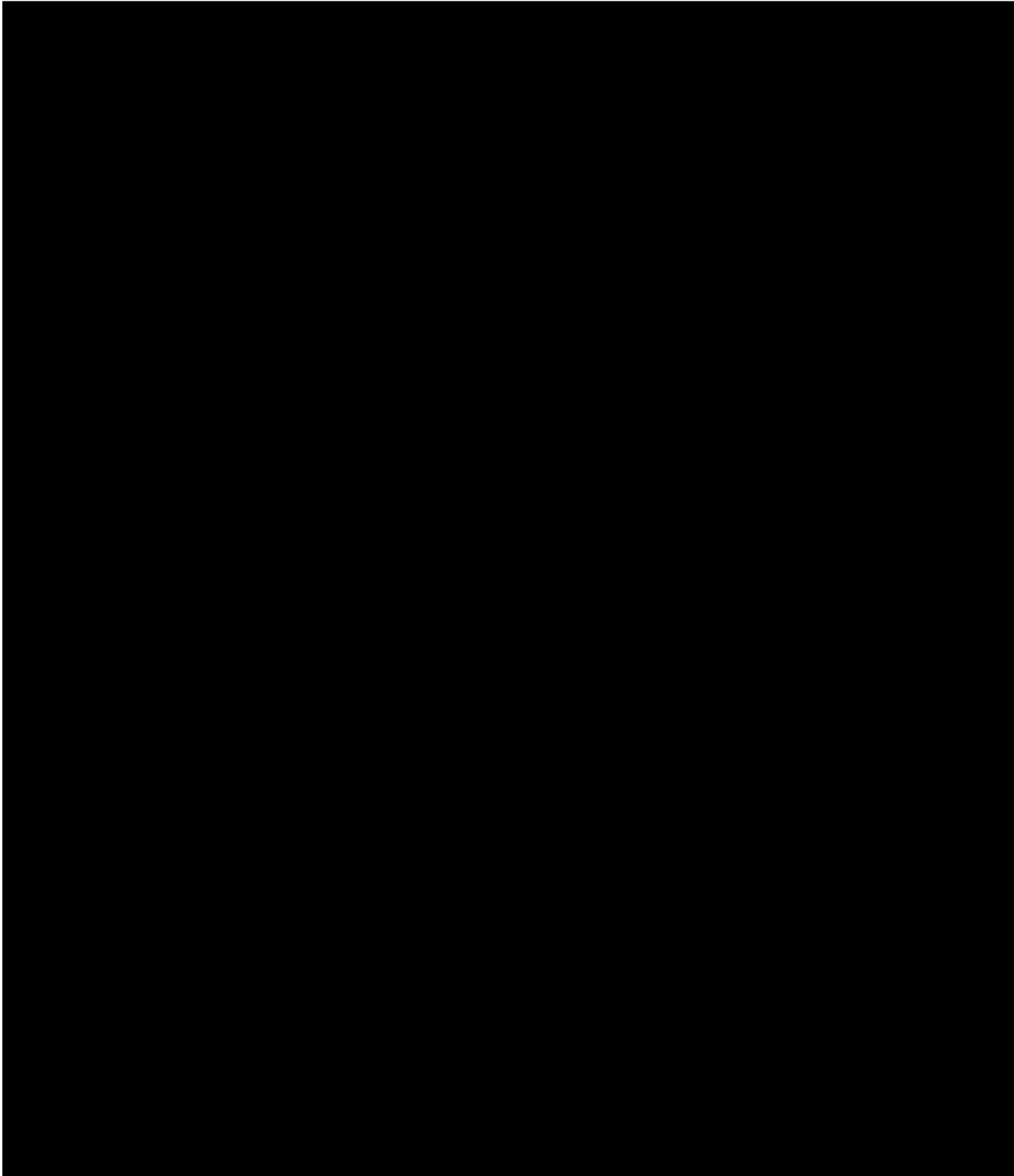
APPENDIX B



APPENDIX C

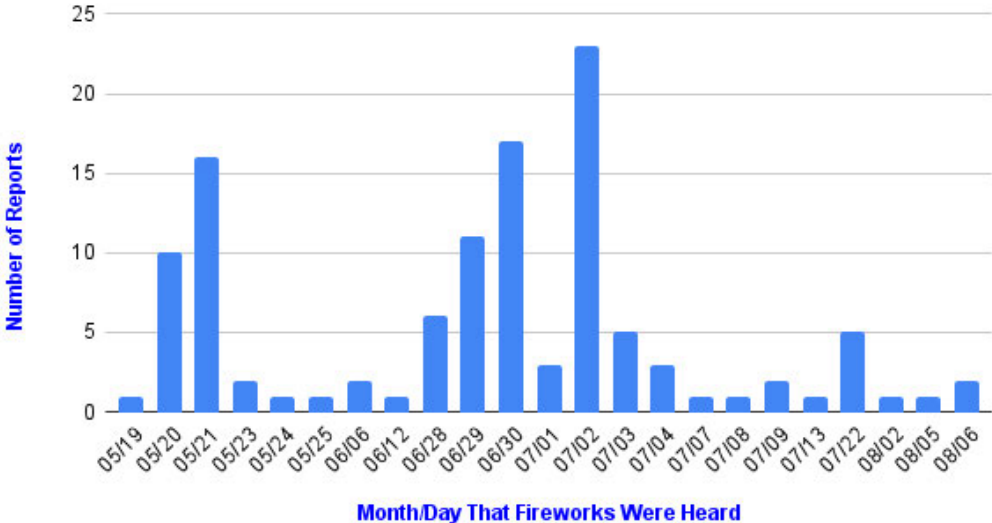


APPENDIX D



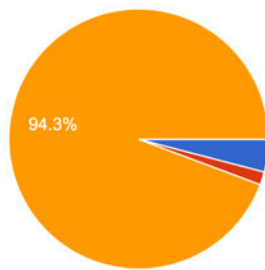
APPENDIX E

Number of Fireworks Violations Reported by Londoners



APPENDIX F

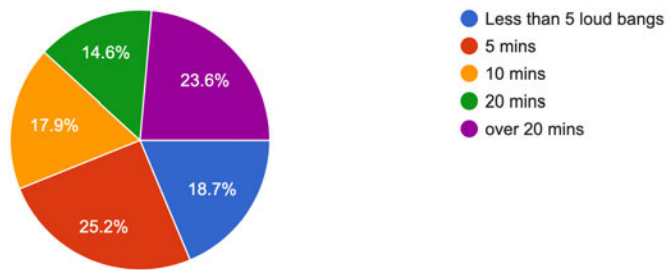
Tell us if you also reported the fireworks to the @LdnOntFire Report Line or the City's By-law Office
123 responses



- Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line: fireforms@london.ca or 519-661-5670 (must have exact address for phone calls)
- Reported to the City's By-law Office: Register Nighttime Occupant Noise Complaints, after hours only, 519-930-3517
- Reported to neither

APPENDIX G

How long did the fireworks last?
123 responses



APPENDIX H

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Was there harm done? Eg. dog had to be medicated, fireworks started fire when they landed on shed, you or family member suffered exacerbation of health issues (mental/physical)
05/19		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	cat was terrified, however, my concern is primarily for wild animals, & those with PTSD, immigrants from war-torn areas, those affected by gun violence, etc.
05/20	9:30 PM	somewhere near Lambeth	Had to put on my headphones so I couldn't hear it anymore.
05/20	7:00 PM	Westmount	I can work with specified times for fire works so I can prepare myself, family & pets but it's been too much. Especially since the incident at Westmount mall last week I now have even more issues with them. That was an absolutely terrifying incident.
05/20		Murray Park (where Manor Park u	[REDACTED] & used as a pellet gun target practice freaked out when I tried to take her out for her before bed pee. I had to lock us in my bedroom & hold her from harming herself.
05/20	12:00 PM	Wharncliffe & Springbank	dog upset
05/20	12:30 AM	Dalmagary Rd. and Cornation Dr.	woke kids up, dogs were barking
05/20	10:00 PM	Hamilton and Egerton	-
05/20		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	My cat was terrified, however my concern primarily for wild animals, & those with PTSD..immigrants from war-torn areas, those affected by gun violence, etc.
05/20	9:30 PM	Huron & Barker	-
05/20	11:15 PM	Southcrest	My moms dog doesn't even need to hear them, she can sense them. And she also shakes, pants and is distressed for days.
05/20	9:00 PM	Fuller and Regal Dr., across from	animals distressed
05/21	9:15 PM	Stormwater Management Pond be	There are geese and duck families that live in/near the pond. And not to mention all the animals that live in the Tricar Buildings that face the pond!
05/21	1:00 AM	Somewhere west of Wharncliffe a	-
05/21	9:30 PM	Northeast London	Parents of baby robins abandoned their nest when the fireworks went off. They finally returned a couple of hours later.
05/21		Old East Village	-
05/21	11:30p,	Hamilton and Egerton	-
05/21		Rosecliffe Estates	I'm concerned about the harm to wildlife
05/21		[REDACTED] Rosecliffe Estates	Fox kits whining outside house
05/21		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	My cat was terrified, however my concern primarily for wild animals, & those with PTSD..immigrants from war-torn areas, those affected by gun violence, etc.
05/21	8:30 PM	Aldersbrook and Fox Hollow	-
05/21	3:00 AM	Huron and Barker	woke me up
05/21	6:25 PM	near Ed Blake Park	-
05/21	9:16 PM	Taylor St. or behind Sevilla Park P	[REDACTED] She's incredibly sensitive to loud noises. She said she couldn't sleep.
05/21	8:45 PM	Southcrest	distress to dog
05/21	8:50 PM	Fuller and Regal Dr	yes, to pets
05/21	11:20 PM	near Langarth and MacKay	Very loud. I worry about the wildlife and birds.
05/21	8:25 PM	Huron Heights	Have 2 dogs. One is unbothered while the other needs medication, shakes and pants in fear as we head to the basement so he can lay on top of me.
05/23		Hamilton & Trafalgar	Nothing helps my dog. She's always distraught. We have tried EVERYTHING including prescription meds from our vet.
05/23		Whitehills area, near the ravine ~	no
05/24		Huron Heights	Six nights of medicating my dog
05/25		White Oaks	-
06/06	11:20 PM	McMaster & Wonderland area	-
06/06	11:30 PM	Fanshawe and Wonderland	I was woken by them which affected my ability to focus at work today
06/12	9:40 PM	Ed Blake Park	-

APPENDIX H

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Was there harm done? Eg. dog had to be medicated, fireworks started fire when they landed on shed, you or family member suffered exacerbation of health issues (mental/physical)
06/28		right by my house	couldn't sleep
06/28	11:00 PM	on Sarnia Road near Hyde Park R	No harm other then woke me
06/28		Wharncliffe & Askin	Scared pets
06/28		Sarnia Road , Western Rd	Dog was terrified. Needed medication
06/28		Huron & Baker	-
06/28	10:30 PM	Finley Cres	Has to medicate dog
06/29	10:10 PM	Fox Field, west towards Tokala/Fa	Not that I know of
06/29	12:21 AM	Cheswick Park area	-
06/29	10:20 PM	Stoneybrook Heights, Elderberry A	Disrupted sleep and added to anxiety issues.
06/29		Notre Dame	health and pets nervous
06/29		Ponderosa cres	No
06/29		Huron & Baker, possibly Ed Blake	-
06/29	10:00 PM	North West London(Aldersbrook a	No
06/29		Ed Blake Park area	It was spotty fireworks so a couple then a 10 min break etc. had to take dog to basement and medicate
06/29	9:00 PM	Grand Ave., between High St. & B	no
06/29		Right across from westmount mall	Kept me from getting to sleep
06/29		Cleardale Park, ██████████	No harm done, just excessive noise beyond midnight.
06/30	10:30 PM	Jalna/ Ernest near Laziz Meats	No
06/30	9:30 PM	Fox Field west towards Medway F	Not that I am aware of
06/30	9:37 PM	parking lot outside my building ██████████	My cat ran and hid in my room. It always alerts me when I hear them. I feel like I have ██████████ and it sounds like ██████████ that to me.
06/30	10:15 PM	Northeast London	Pets were startled, woke me up
06/30	11:45 PM	Old south/Wortley/ south of downt	Dogs had to be medicated. ██████████ had to come over for comfort due to PTSD
06/30		White Oaks Mall Parking Garage	It startled me severely as I was passing the parking garage leaving the mall. Weeks ago I had a firework ██████████ and now am very scared of them.
06/30	9:45 PM	Oxford and Mornington	Sounded very close to the houses, my house was unharmed but I can't speak for others
06/30	10:00 PM	Hamilton & Egerton	My dogs are terrified
06/30	10:00 PM	Denview and sunningdale	Yes a few of the fireworks went side ways towards the crowd including many children who were frightened
06/30	6:30 PM	Weston St	Dog was medicated
06/30	10:15 PM	Huron and Adelaide area	My dog is barking at them.
06/30	8:45 PM	old north	no
06/30	10:30 PM	Westdel Bourne, near legacy hom	Cats are under the bed scared
06/30	10:00 PM	Forbes St. and Winston	I was ██████████ and he was a bit frightened.
06/30	9:40 PM	Southcrest Neighbourhood	Dog became very anxious and panicked
06/30	10:15 PM	Southcrest	Dog becoming more stressed and anxious
06/30	8:30 PM	Kensington area (Forward Ave.)	Wildlife disturbed; negatively impacted health of a person living with chronic health & disability issues.
07/01	11:25 PM	Aldersbrook and Lawson	No
07/01	11:30 PM	Westminster. Heard from Surrey C	Just hard to fall asleep
07/01	9:50 PM	Murray Park	Loud scarred our children and pets

APPENDIX H

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Was there harm done? Eg. dog had to be medicated, fireworks started fire when they landed on shed, you or family member suffered exacerbation of health issues (mental/physical)
07/02	9:30 PM	Estates, south of Dennis Ave, in c	██████████ was terrified yet again. She has spent her life featuring fireworks, and so I had to medicate her, which only helps a little. I have to turn all the lights on. I have to turn the television on very loud. I have to run the exhaust fan in the bathroom. Anything at all to make some noise to try to defeat the sound of the fireworks. It never works, but we keep trying!
07/02	10:43 PM	Fox Field	None that I am aware of
07/02		Hyde park. South carriage. In pub	Medicate dog
07/02	4:00 AM	██████████ Wonderland Road South park	Startled me into a panic attack.
07/02	10:00 PM	Weston and Trevithan	Dogs not medicated but terrified
07/02		Baseline and Boler area	Mental health
07/02	12:00 AM	Duchess and Cathcart	no
07/02	4:00 AM	Westmount	My puppy woke up in distress, and I had to calm her down. I wasn't able to get back to sleep after that.
07/02	11:58 PM	Oxford and Mornington	Dogs were upset; however, closed the windows and were able to soothe quickly
07/02	12:00 AM	Oxford and Mornington	Dogs were pacing and did not want to be outside for their walks at all
07/02	6:30 AM	Chesley Ave London Ontario	Happened in a small backyard seemed dangerous
07/02	3:00 AM	Hamilton and Egerton	Thankfully no
07/02	10:00 PM	██████████	Both dogs had to be medicated. Fire works were being shot off in the back yard of this residence which has a high volume of mature trees. I have not had sleep in 3 days because of these things because my dogs can't sleep
07/02	10:00 PM	Westminster (heard from ██████████	No
07/02	10:15 PM	Baseline and mckeen	No
07/02	10:15 PM	Baseline and mckeen	No
07/02	9:30 PM	██████████ - coming from their l	Dogs medicated.
07/02	12:15 AM	Fanshawe and Wonderland	Went to bed with a migraine. Was woken up with migraine exacerbated
07/02	10:10 PM	Byron commisioners rd.	N/a
07/02		south of Commissioners Rd. W clc	none, just annoying noise
07/02	4:00 AM	Westmount	None
07/02	12:30 AM	Mother Teresa High School (either	Stressed out my dog plus interrupted my sleep despite being on sleeping medication to help with my cancer treatments so I wasn't able to fall back asleep until 5am
07/02	1:00 AM	Greenway park	Not that i know of
07/03	10:00 PM	Hyde park. South carriage in publi	Yes. Medicate dog
07/03		East London	
07/03	2:00 PM	North east London	Backyard birds were startled
07/03	12:30 AM	Denview and sunningdale	Dog has heart failure and needed to be medicated due to stress from the noise
07/03	11:30 PM	Gatewood Place in the circle	woke my puppy up.
07/04	1:00 AM	South carriage in public park besic	Yes to dog
07/04	1:00 AM	Fanshawe and Hyde Park	Just a kid not sleeping, for the 3rd night in a row
07/04	6:45 PM	Hamilton and Egerton	My dog is terrified
07/07	9:00 PM	Cheapside and Elliot	.
07/08	10:00 PM	East end	Luckily far enough away that my cats are not hiding but I am sure wildlife/people somewhere were affected.
07/09	9:10 PM	Oxford & Mornington	N/A - fainter than they have been
07/09	9:00 PM	Fuller Place, London, Ontario	My dog required calming treats and to be brought to the basement. We were outside and fortunately my gate was closed as she started to run around.
07/13	11:35 PM	Empire Street	Set off dogs, startled me
07/22	9:50 PM	Huron Heights (Briar Hill/Kipps)	Just annoyance tonight

APPENDIX H

			Was there harm done?
			Eg. dog had to be medicated, fireworks started fire when they landed on shed, you or family member suffered exacerbation of health issues (mental/physical)
Date	Time	Approximate Location	
07/22	9:45 PM	kipps and adelaide area	No. woke my dog up.
07/22	10:30 PM	Barker/Boullee/Victoria.?	no just pisses me off if that counts
07/22	10:00 PM	Around Adelaide and Glenora	No
07/22		Dennis Ave London	My wee dog did have to be medicated and our stress levels went up again!
08/02	1:33 AM	Huron Heights - likely Fuller Place	My pets ran out of the room. They were frightened. One cat run up into the basement ceiling to hide.
08/05	10:10 PM	Trillium Cres or Fuller Rd	Dog and cats ran away from the room we were enjoying the fresh air through the open door with a screen in place.
08/06		Wonderland & McMaster area	Just losing sleep.
08/06	9:45 PM	Wonderland Road at Commission	Just more annoying noise in our neighbourhood

APPENDIX I

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Tell us if you also reported the fireworks to the	Other thoughts or comments
05/19		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	Reported to neither	
05/20	9:30 PM	somewhere near Lambeth	Reported to neither	
05/20	7:00 PM	Westmount	Reported to neither	
05/20		Murray Park (where Manor Park used to be)	Reported to neither	
05/20	12:00 PM	Wharnccliffe & Springbank	Reported to neither	
05/20	12:30 AM	Dalmagary Rd. and Comation Dr.	Reported to neither	
05/20	10:00 PM	Hamilton and Egerton	Reported to neither	Didn't report as I don't have an exact address so they don't do anything (and nobody answers the phone even if I did have an address).
05/20		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	Reported to neither	
05/20	9:30 PM	Huron & Barker	Reported to neither	
05/20	11:15 PM	Southcrest	Reported to neither	
05/20	9:00 PM	Fuller and Regal Dr., across from	Reported to neither	
05/21	9:15 PM	Stormwater Management Pond behind	Reported to neither	
05/21	1:00 AM	Somewhere west of Wharnccliffe area	Reported to neither	
05/21	9:30 PM	Northeast London	Reported to neither	
05/21		Old East Village	Reported to neither	
05/21	11:30p.	Hamilton and Egerton	Reported to neither	Didn't report as I don't have an exact address so they don't do anything (and nobody answers the phone even if I did have an address).
05/21		Rosecliffe Estates	Reported to neither	
05/21			Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line	This is the third or fourth year that I have heard this noisy display in this location. I tried calling various numbers, particularly nonemergency police, and nobody either answers or they tell me to call nonemergency police, but he answers this display is always put on the night BEFORE Victoria day, which is against the bylaw
05/21		Berkshire/Gardenwood/Southcrest	Reported to neither	
05/21	8:30 PM	Aldersbrook and Fox Hollow	Reported to neither	There are some just south east - 2 or 3 houses down. Some behind between me and Fanshawe and a major display in Jaycee Park - VERY, VERY loud bangs. My skin is crawling. I will have to go to my basement and turn my tv up very loud. Simply can't stand to sit here listening to the bangs - quite literally on the verge of a panic attack.
05/21	3:00 AM	Huron and Barker	Reported to neither	
05/21	6:25 PM	near Ed Blake Park	Reported to neither	
05/21	9:16 PM	Taylor St. or behind Sevilla Park	Reported to neither	I honestly gave up trying to figure out where they come from. Having an address doesn't do much good because no one enforces anything. I'm so mad that people are so disrespectful. I've gone through this for her entire life. Why is [redacted] put in this position. Ohhhh so people can light chemical ridden fireworks for their enjoyment. I am so thankful that the city may actually do something about this. Not for this year but hopefully next year.
05/21	8:45 PM	Southcrest	Reported to neither	
05/21	8:50 PM	Fuller and Regal Dr	Reported to neither	
05/21	11:20 PM	near Langarth and MacKay	Reported to neither	
05/21	8:25 PM	Huron Heights	Reported to neither	If it was all just tonight I could brace myself for one night rather than 4-5 nights.
05/23		Hamilton & Trafalgar	Reported to neither	I didn't call anyone at the City because they don't do anything and I didn't have an address and because this time it only lasted a few minutes. Thanks!
05/23		Whitehills area, near the ravine -	Reported to neither	
05/24		Huron Heights	Reported to neither	
05/25		White Oaks	Reported to neither	
06/06	11:20 PM	McMaster & Wonderland area	Reported to neither	
06/06	11:30 PM	Fanshawe and Wonderland	Reported to neither	
06/12	9:40 PM	Ed Blake Park	Reported to neither	
06/28		right by my house	Reported to neither	no
06/28	11:00 PM	on Sarnia Road near Hyde Park	Reported to neither	Seems to be a lot of fireworks in the area on times other than allowed. They may have permits to so.
06/28		Wharnccliffe & Askin	Reported to neither	It's time to ban fireworks for personal use. It's obvious people chronically can't follow bylaws- we know their bad for the environment & traumatize animals and people with anxiety ptsd - london needs to step up and be responsible
06/28		Sarnia Road, Western Rd	Reported to neither	They need to be banned!
06/28		Huron & Baker	Reported to neither	
06/28	10:30 PM	Finley Cres	Reported to neither	
06/29	10:10 PM	Fox Field, west towards Tokala/Fairview	Reported to neither	Hope that we as a society can limit the sale of fireworks province wide
06/29	12:21 AM	Cheswick Park area	Reported to neither	
06/29				I know that the current majority position is to continue to allow fireworks on selected dates, but I fear that policy will result in the same outcomes as we have currently, where fireworks are discharged at any time and any day. Enforcement is very difficult, if not impossible, and quite frankly, everyone knows it.
06/29				I estimate I can now (post 2019) hear fireworks for 30-40 nights in the year, including every evening around each statutory holiday during the summer (including the August provincial holiday and Labour Day), Diwali, Thanksgiving etc.. They are sometimes limited to 5-10 loud bangs, but same core problem persists, which is the incredibly disruptive impact those noises have on families.
06/29	10:20 PM	Stoneybrook Heights, Elderberry /	Reported to neither	Last night was just the first of 7 straight nights for fireworks in our neighborhood, including an inevitably large number on July 4th. Unless the public attitude around fireworks changes, the same outcomes will persist.
06/29		Notre Dame	Reported to neither	

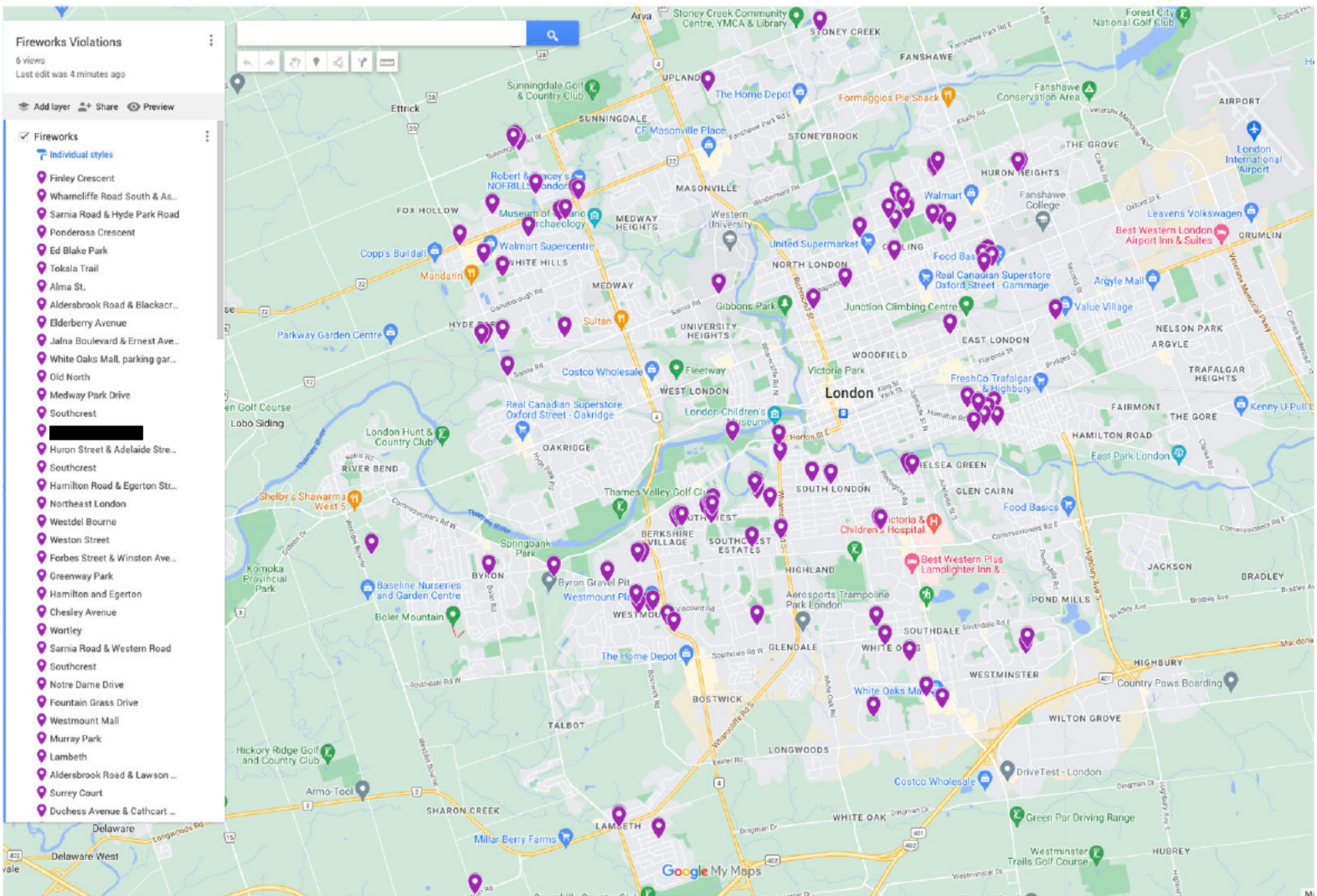
APPENDIX I

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Tell us if you also reported the fireworks to the	Other thoughts or comments
06/29		Ponderosa cres	Reported to neither	They were letting them off at white oaks small last night @ 19:30
06/29		Huron & Baker, possibly Ed Blake	Reported to neither	
06/29	10:00 PM	North West London (Aldersbrook area)	Reported to neither	
06/29		Ed Blake Park area	Reported to neither	
06/29	9:00 PM	Grand Ave., between High St. & B	Reported to neither	
06/29		Right across from westmount mall	Reported to neither	
06/29		Cleardale Park, [REDACTED] Lr	Reported to neither	
06/30	10:30 PM	Jalna/ Ernest near Laziz Meats	Reported to neither	These were heard on June 29, on a weeknight, before the designated July 1st date.
06/30	9:30 PM	Fox Field west towards Medway	Reported to neither	
06/30	9:37 PM	parking lot outside my building [REDACTED]	Reported to neither	I wish I could tell you where these go off but I mostly can only see them going off behind trees and in the distance, and sometimes the sound ricochets off all the buildings near mine so if I hear but don't see them, I don't know where they're being set off.
06/30	10:15 PM	Northeast London	Reported to neither	
06/30	11:45 PM	Old south/Wortley/ south of downtown	Reported to neither	Fines should be increased when used. City should be the only ones doing a fireworks display. Fireworks should be banned within the city.
06/30		White Oaks Mall Parking Garage	Reported to neither	
06/30	9:45 PM	Oxford and Mornington	Reported to neither	
06/30	10:00 PM	Hamilton & Egerton	Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line: fireforms@london.ca or 519-661-5670 (must have exact address for phone calls)	
06/30	10:00 PM	Denview and sunningdale	Reported to neither	
06/30	6:30 PM	Weston St	Reported to neither	
06/30	10:15 PM	Huron and Adelaide area	Reported to neither	
06/30	8:45 PM	old north	Reported to neither	
06/30	10:30 PM	Westdel Bourne, near legacy home	Reported to neither	
06/30	10:00 PM	Forbes St. and Winston	Reported to neither	
06/30	9:40 PM	Southcrest Neighbourhood	Reported to neither	Please ban fireworks in London!!
06/30	10:15 PM	Southcrest	Reported to neither	
06/30	8:30 PM	Kensington area (Forward Ave.)	Reported to neither	Thanks for recording these!
07/01	11:25 PM	Aldersbrook and Lawson	Reported to neither	
07/01	11:30 PM	Westminster. Heard from Surrey	Reported to neither	20 minutes was sporadic, sometimes long gaps between clusters of bangs, not even sure they were all from same direction
07/01	9:50 PM	Murray Park	Reported to neither	Wish they wouldn't go off in the park
07/02	9:30 PM	Estates, south of Dennis Ave, in c	Reported to neither	We also need to address the situation at the source, the people who sell the fireworks. They should not be allowed to sell them to regular people only the city and their acceptable venues.
07/02	10:43 PM	Fox Field	Reported to neither	
07/02		Hyde park. South carriage. In public	Reported to neither	
07/02	4:00 AM	[REDACTED] Wonderland Road South park	Reported to neither	I saw someone post in a neighborhood group about being upset about the fireworks going past the bylaw time and so many people were mean and nasty to the person posting. What's the point of a bylaw if nobody respects it. Someone even said "it's okay to be a little tired at work the next day" on the post, which, no, that is not okay and also not the only reason the bylaw is in place.
07/02	10:00 PM	Weston and Trevithan	Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line: fireforms@london.ca or 519-661-5670 (must have exact address for phone calls)	
07/02		Baseline and Boler area	Reported to neither	There were multiple fireworks going on in the area. There is no point reporting them because they will not respond in time.
07/02	12:00 AM	Duchess and Cathcart	Reported to neither	
07/02	4:00 AM	Westmount	Reported to neither	
07/02	11:58 PM	Oxford and Mornington	Reported to neither	Should be looking to restrict the sales as well, if we aren't already.
07/02	12:00 AM	Oxford and Mornington	Reported to neither	
07/02	6:30 AM	Chesley Ave London Ontario	Reported to neither	
07/02	3:00 AM	Hamilton and Egerton	Reported to neither	
07/02	10:00 PM	[REDACTED]	Reported to neither	Fire works need to be banned. This is absolutely ridiculous how unsafe these are considering the people who are setting them off at home are kids and people who are intoxicated.
07/02	10:00 PM	Westminster (heard from [REDACTED])	Reported to neither	
07/02	10:15 PM	Baseline and mckeon	Reported to neither	The fireworks didn't really bother me but I can see how they could be problematic for other people.
07/02	10:15 PM	Baseline and mckeon	Reported to neither	The fireworks didn't really bother me but I can see how they could be problematic for other people.
07/02	9:30 PM	[REDACTED] coming from their	Reported to neither	
07/02	12:15 AM	Fanshawe and Wonderland	Reported to neither	
07/02	10:10 PM	Byron commissioners rd.	Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line	Backyard fireworks are inappropriate, harmful And disrespectful
07/02		south of Commissioners Rd. W cl	Reported to neither	
07/02	4:00 AM	Westmount	Reported to neither	
07/02	12:30 AM	Mother Teresa High School (either	Reported to neither	I fully support a fireworks ban on private property (or at least a ban on fireworks that make noise). I'm not opposed to the beautiful light shows, I love those, only the massive noise that comes with them. If they make a firework without the noise I support that.
07/02	1:00 AM	Greenway park	Reported to neither	
07/03	10:00 PM	Hyde park. South carriage in public	Reported to neither	This needs to stop.
07/03		East London	Reported to neither	
07/03	2:00 PM	North east London	Reported to neither	

APPENDIX I

Date	Time	Approximate Location	Tell us if you also reported the fireworks to the	Other thoughts or comments
07/03	12:30 AM	Denview and sunningdale	Reported to neither	
07/03	11:30 PM	Gatewood Place in the circle	Reported to neither	
07/04	1:00 AM	South carriage in public park besik	Reported to neither	
07/04	1:00 AM	Fenshawe and Hyde Park	Reported to neither	
07/04	6:45 PM	Hamilton and Egerton	Reported to the Fire Department's Report Line: fireforms@london.ca or 519-661-5670 (must have exact address for phone calls)	
07/07	9:00 PM	Cheapside and Elliot	Reported to neither	
07/08	10:00 PM	East end	Reported to neither	
07/09	9:10 PM	Oxford & Morningson	Reported to neither	N/A
07/09	9:00 PM	Fuller Place, London, Ontario	Reported to neither	I am absolutely fed up with fireworks going off in close vicinity to my house [REDACTED] Any time of night and on any day. It's frightening for me and my pets get extremely distressed.
07/13	11:35 PM	Empire Street	Reported to neither	
07/22	9:50 PM	Huron Heights (Briar Hill/Kipps)	Reported to neither	
07/22	9:45 PM	Kipps and Adelaide area	Reported to neither	
07/22	10:30 PM	Barker/Boulee/Victoria.?	Reported to neither	
07/22	10:00 PM	Around Adelaide and Glenora	Reported to neither	If fireworks were limited to 3 days I could deal with them but they just go on for days.
07/22		Dennis Ave London	Reported to neither	We are so tired and fed up with people who never consider other's feelings or fears!
08/02	1:33 AM	Huron Heights - likely Fuller Place	Reported to the City's By-law Office: Register	This particular incident made me so angry I called the 911 line to ask who to call. The person who answered was very shocked fireworks were being let off in the early morning hours. She said she would alert the officers in the area immediately
08/05	10:10 PM	Trillium Cres or Fuller Rd	Reported to neither	I am tired of my peace being disrupted by bangs that sound like gunshots. Affects both my pets and myself!
08/06		Wonderland & McMaster area	Reported to neither	It is extremely annoying.
08/06	9:45 PM	Wonderland Road at Commission	Reported to neither	

APPENDIX J



Quiet Fireworks for London, Ontario



Started July 3, 2021
Petition to [city of london](#) and [2 others](#)

Why this petition matters



Started by [Londoners for Quiet Fireworks](#)

We the undersigned, call on the City of London to **implement a 3-year plan to phase out traditional fireworks.**

We urge Mayor Josh Morgan and City Council to consider the negative impact of traditional fireworks on the environment and on human and pet health.

It has become common to hear fireworks being discharged in London, not only during the typical 3 nights out of the year (New Year's Eve, Victoria Day and Canada Day), but rather approximately every night for a week before, and sometimes a week after each of these holidays.

In terms of environmental impact, there have been many scientific studies completed that show the harmful effects of traditional fireworks. Some of these toxic results include air and ground pollution. Heavy metals released during the discharge of fireworks also contaminate local watersheds. (1)

Traditional fireworks also have a huge impact on wildlife with birds and animals, at the very least causing these creatures distress, and at the most, causing injury and death. (2)

3,199 Signatures **5,000** Next Goal

 Support now



City of London: Quiet Fireworks for London, Ontario

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In regards to health issues, the heavy metals that are released can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma. The loud noise from traditional fireworks can trigger symptoms in persons with nervous system disorders, PTSD, complex-PTSD, and Autism. The loud noises can also cause temporary or permanent hearing issues and sleep disturbances. (1) The same effect of anxiety, sleep disturbance, etc. is displayed in many of our pets.

There are several alternatives to traditional fireworks. Many cities across the States, Europe and Canada have swapped out traditional fireworks for laser or drone light shows. (3) In 2018, Banff, Alberta switched to quiet, or "low noise" fireworks; the Calgary Zoo switched in 2012 and Collechio, Italy in 2015. "Quiet" fireworks produce the same light show without the loud "bang." In November 2022, the City of Brampton, Ontario passed a motion to amend their fireworks by-law to ban the sale and use of fireworks, as well as to increase the current fines

An alternative specifically for Canada Day celebrations, would be for the City to re-allocate their funds for fireworks by donating to local Indigenous organizations that provide health and well-being services to their clients.

In 2022, for Canada Day, the City of Waterloo contracted North Star Drone Shows (<https://www.northstardroneshow.com>) to provide a drone light show for the City's celebrations. North Star's prices for a custom-designed Drone Light show range from \$16,905.00 (for a 50 drone show) to \$196,075.00 (for a 500 drone show). If Waterloo can do it, so can London.

Our City (and the rest of the world) is in the midst of a Climate Crisis, we are also in the middle of a Healthcare Crisis. We need some creative thinking to reduce the impact that we have on our environment and on the physical and mental health of our residents.

We ask the City of London to implement the following:

- a) **Year 1, a shorter sales period for consumer fireworks, especially from the pop-up sales vendor, fewer sales points and tighter regulations on the type of consumer fireworks that are sold.**
- b) **Year 2, a full ban on consumer fireworks (sales and detonation), while licensed displays of regular fireworks and other larger organizations (holding permits) continue. We hope that the City of London will see fit to address these concerns and to implement these changes.**
- c) **Year 3, a full ban on traditional fireworks, with the City and other organizations employing alternative light shows using either quiet/no noise fireworks, laser light shows or drone light shows.**

In order to achieve the goals above, City Staff will also need to research how successful bans have been achieved in municipalities across Canada and the U.S.

We believe that the three-year plan above is not only reasonable, but also viable and feasible with your help.

Thank you.

- (1) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2019/12/31/festive-fireworks-create-harmful-pall-of-pollution/?sh=26b9f9262853>
- (2) <https://www.thelandbetween.ca/fireworks/>
- (3) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/greener-alternatives-to-fireworks-1.4748406>

📄 [Report a policy violation](#)

From: D Fraser

Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 10:57 AM

To: CPSP@london.ca; Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Phasing Out Traditional Fireworks Proposal

Please forward my email to city council.

London is overdue on banning personal fireworks & I'm in full agreement with the attached letter.

London needs to do a lot more to protect our environment.

Debbie Fraser

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Scott Mathers MPA, P.Eng.
Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic
Development

Subject: Inter Faith Homes (London) Transition Strategy: Appointment
of London-Middlesex Community Housing

Date: August 15, 2023

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development:

- a. the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "A") BE INTRODUCED at the Municipal Council meeting on August 29, 2023 to:
 - i. Delegate to the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, the authority to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of the City as service manager under the Act with respect to designated housing projects and transferred housing programs in accordance with the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, S.O 2001, c. 6. Sched. 1 ("Act") and policies and directives issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing applicable to service managers under the Act.
 - ii. Delegate to the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, the authority to approve and execute agreements necessary to carry out the authority to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of the City as service manager under the Act, excepting exit agreements and service agreements under the Act.
- b. The following information on Civic Administration's approach for the Inter Faith Homes (London) Transition Strategy BE RECEIVED;
- c. That Council, in its capacity as Service Manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, AUTHORIZE the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, to:
 - i. exercise any of the remedies available to the service manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* in connection with the resignation of the board of directors for Inter Faith Homes (London) or a triggering event under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*;
 - ii. authorize the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, to approve and execute any agreements required to exercise any of the remedies available to the service manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* in connection with the resignation of the board of directors for Inter Faith Homes (London) or a triggering event under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.
- d. That Council, in its capacity as Service Manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* authorize the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development to authorize the appointment of City staff to act as an interim Board of Directors for Inter Faith Homes (London);
- e. That, the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, BE AUTHORIZED to undertake all the administrative acts that

are required under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* in connection with the Inter Faith Homes (London) Transition Strategy.

Executive Summary

Inter Faith Homes (London) is a 64-unit townhouse development in the City of London. The home were built in 1964 and was acquired in the late 1980's by Inter Faith Homes Group and incorporated as Inter Faith Homes (London) corporation. The project was transferred to the City of London in 2001/2002 as part of the social housing provincial download to the municipality. Currently governed under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* (the 'Act'), Inter Faith Homes (London) is identified as a designated Part VII housing project and more specifically as a Program (6) Housing Project in Ontario Reg. 368/11.

Inter Faith Homes (London) receives subsidy from the City of London in accordance with the Act which is a benchmark funding formula which helps to offset operating costs (including mortgage costs and property tax costs) and provides RGI subsidy for households eligible for RGI assistance.

In May 2023, Board of Directors of Inter Faith Homes (London) resolved that they could no longer provide governance oversight and issued communication to the City of London that they will be stepping down effective immediately. Through conversations with the Board of Directors of Inter Faith Homes (London), they agreed to continue their duties until August 31, 2023, at which time the Board expects to transfer governance through the appointment of new board members.

In June the City issued a Triggering Event notice to Inter Faith Homes (London) and a Project in Difficulty (PID) notice to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing outlining these events and concerns. Both these notices indicated that the above situation met the definition of a 'project-in-difficulty' under the Act and that the City, in its capacity as Service Manager under the Act, would exercise remedies to help restore stability to the organization and preserve the housing asset while developing a long-term plan for Ladybrook.

Civic Administration is working with London-Middlesex Community Housing to address the short-term needs of the Ladybrook site until a new local Board can be established.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Council and staff continue to recognize the importance of actions to support housing, as reflected in the 2023-2027 - Strategic Plan for the City of London. Specifically, the efforts described in this report address the following Areas of Focus, including:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Well-Run City

Housing and Homelessness Strategic Area of Focus:

The following strategies are intended to "Increase access to a range of quality, affordable, and supportive housing options that meet the unique needs of Londoners":

- Align policies and programs recognizing the broad range of factors that contribute to accessing and maintaining transitional, supportive, community, affordable and market housing.

The following strategies are intended to Decrease the number of Londoners at risk of or experiencing homelessness:

- Implement a program of continuous review of policies, procedures, and by-laws to create accountability and opportunities for balanced and compassionate solutions to homelessness.

Well-Run City Strategic Area of Focus:

The following strategies are intended for Londoners to have trust and confidence in their municipal government:

- Increase transparency and accountability in decision making, financial expenditures, and the delivery of municipal programs and services.

Analysis

1.0 Discussion and Considerations

1.1 Previous Report Related to this Matter

- [CPSC - February 1, 2022, Agenda Item #2.3 – End of Mortgage \(EOM\) and End of Operating Agreement \(EOA\) Impacts and Analysis](#)

1.2 Background

In June 2020, Inter Faith Homes (London) submitted a business case to the City outlining several financial concerns and that the Ladybrook housing project is not financially sustainable under the current funding formula. The business case requested an increase to subsidy of approximately \$100,000 per year over the next 10 years. Inter Faith Homes (London) continued to advocate that they want to help the City meet its goals including protecting affordable housing stock, helping ensure the long-term sustainability of community housing (social housing) providers and ensuring the availability of subsidized housing for London residents. Since June 2020, the Municipal Housing team has continued to work with Inter Faith Homes' (London) administration to address the various components of the business case.

In an effort to support Inter Faith Homes' (London) long-term sustainability, the Municipal Housing Development team committed to conducting a full operational review of their operations with the goal of highlighting strengths, opportunities, and areas of risk to provide useful information to assist the Board in making future decisions towards financial viability (Appendix "B"). The operational review was also intended to highlight areas for potential future support from the Service Manager. The operational review was completed in April 2022. Unfortunately, a number of significant issues remain outstanding or have since occurred since the operational review.

In May 2023, Inter Faith Homes (London) was forecasting a minor net income of approximately \$11,000, cashflow deficit of approximately \$36,000 (largely due to uncollectable rental revenue and past subsidy recoveries due to the Service Manager), informed Municipal Housing that they have depleted their capital reserve, and provided notice of the Board's decision to resign as Directors of Inter Faith Homes (London).

1.3 Operating Challenges

The Ladybrook housing project is not financially sustainable under the current financial situation. The following table highlights the financial activities of Ladybrook over the last few years. The amounts below are based on the audited financial statements and the City's Annual Reconciliation review (AIR):

Table 1: Ladybrook Financial Activities

	2018/19 (AIR)	2019/20 (AIR)	2020-21 (AIR)	2021-22 (financial statement)
Revenues				
Rental Income	\$316,313	\$340,409	\$405,871	\$442,663
Subsidy Entitlement	365,937	\$352,603	324,700	\$327,614
Other	\$3,017	\$1,697	62,272	2,665
Total Revenues	\$685,267	\$694,709	\$792,843	\$772,942
Expenses				
Operating	\$324,799	\$398,312	\$407,616	\$409,716
Property Taxes	136,300	137,283	141,506	145,028
Mortgage (Principal & Interest)	227,257	227,041	227,041	232,195
Total Expenses	\$688,356	\$762,636	\$839,163	786,939
Net Income (loss)	(\$3,089)	(\$67,927)	(\$46,320)	(\$13,997)
Accumulated Operating Income (loss)	\$24,720	(\$43,207)	(\$89,527)	(\$105,254)
Capital Reserve	\$427,210	\$398,652	\$370,201	\$350,458

To assist with the ongoing operational challenges, through its delegated authority as Service Manager, supported by community housing programs funded by the Provincial government, the City has:

- Provided a two-month advance on subsidy payments.
- Deferred three years of subsidy recoveries.
- Provided additional operating subsidy payments of \$60,000 in 2021 and another \$40,000 in 2023.
- Granted capital funding to support building repairs.
 - \$195,000 in 2016 for Replacement of Patio/Balcony Doors, Front Landings, Electrical Upgrades
 - \$219,000 in 2020 for Additional Patio Doors, Tree Pruning & Removal, Concrete Landings and Stair Repairs
 - \$192,000 in 2021 for Roof Replacement

1.4 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to formally designate the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, to act in the capacity of Service Manager as it pertains to the *Housing Services Act, 2011* administrative responsibilities, to inform council on the recent events regarding a housing project in difficulty and provide an update on Civic Administration's strategic transitional management plan for this housing project.

The proposed delegation will:

- Grant authority to the Deputy City Manager, or designate, to
 - Act as the Service Manager for the purposes of administering the City's responsibilities under the Housing Services Act,
 - Improve the administrative effort and efficiency in the administration of the City's Housing Services Act responsibilities.

2.0 Key Issues and Considerations

2.1 Preferred Approach

In review of the options below, the preferred approach is to work with the directors of London-Middlesex Community Housing to assume interim board of director responsibilities and maintain operations of Inter Faith Homes (London) while Civic Administration continues to identify local community board members.

To support the preferred approach, Civic Administration has identified an action plan that will be implemented to address Short-term, Medium-term, and Long-term objectives. As necessary and throughout the process, the plan may be revised to reflect changing needs and/or other considerations.

2.2 Rationale for Preferred Approach

In reviewing the available options, Civic Administration has considered the following items:

Community Housing Experience

It was important to Civic Administration that the short-term plan included board members who have been on a board of an organization that had experience with the administration of the ACT, community housing tenant management, property management and financial management. Working with the directors of the board of LMCH provides the opportunity to work with individuals experienced in managing the necessary requirements with a community housing project which focuses on providing a seamless transition for the residents of the property.

Resident Engagement

As part of Civic Administration's transition plan, a resident communication strategy was developed with Corporate Communications which includes information handouts for residents, building posters, drop-in info sessions, and contact information. Ongoing information/communication updates will be provided to residents throughout the transition process.

This transition plan will not impact any current resident's housing situation (either market or RGI households). Tenants will still be required to adhere to their existing lease agreements and RGI eligibility requirements.

Financial Obligations

Municipal Housing division, acting as the Service Manager, will continue to review the financial requirements of the project and will continue to provide operational financial support and capital funding from the provincial Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative program funding and the City's Social Housing Reserve fund (which is intended for major capital repairs and upgrades to maintain existing social housing units) as available.

Immediate Action

The decision by the Inter Faith Board was made official through resolution in May 2023. Civic Administration has limited options with which to proceed prior to the pending August 31, 2023 date when the existing Board officially resigns. Immediate action is required to support the tenants and the organization through this period and ensure that housing is maintained.

3.0 Financial Considerations

Civic Administration, acting as the Service Manager, will continue to review the financial requirements of the project and provide operational financial support within existing base

budget funding levels. Capital funding opportunities will be explored and funded through the provincial Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative program funding (100% provincial funding) and the City's Social Housing Reserve fund (which is intended for major capital repairs and upgrades to maintain existing social housing units).

If the interim receiver and manager option is implemented, it is expected to cost approximately \$30,000/month. And although, as per the *Housing Services Act*, the interim receiver costs are the responsibility of the community housing provider, given the depleted financial position, the funding would initially need to be provided by the City as the Service Manager.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 Short-term Plan

Civic Administration will work with LMCH board of directors on their appointment to the board of Inter Faith (London).

Civic Administration will continue to seek out community board members for consideration for the permanent replacement of the interim board members of Inter Faith Homes (London).

Municipal Housing Development, acting as the Service Manager, will continue to review the financial requirements of the project and continue to provide operational financial support and capital funding. Through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative program funding and the City's Social Housing Reserve fund (which is intended for major capital repairs and upgrades to maintain existing social housing units), these needs can be met.

4.2 Medium-term Plan

Civic Administration will continue to seek out community board members for consideration for the permanent replacement of the interim LMCH board members of Inter Faith Homes (London).

Inter Faith Homes' (London) current mortgage is set to expire November 1, 2024, at which time, the organization is required to enter into a new service or exit agreement with the Service Manager as per current Act requirements.

When the project reaches their End of Mortgage, the legislative framework provides opportunities for the organization to enter into a New Services Agreement with the Service Manager and renegotiate within a new regulatory funding model. This provides the opportunity to advance redevelopment plans which could lead to a more financially sustainable project.

The MHD team is committed to supporting this project in redevelopment activities and preliminary design concepts based on the neighbourhood context and planning framework.

The intent is that a new permanent board of directors for Inter Faith Homes (London) is established to advance the organization through the redevelopment and service agreement process.

4.3 Long-term Plan

The long-term plan involves having a permanent locally populated community board established with a focus of redevelopment and a new housing service agreement in place to promote future financial stability, and a property that is well managed for the residents that call this community home.

Conclusion

In May 2023, Inter Faith Homes (London) board provided notice to the Service Manager of their resignation from the community housing project and have subsequently agreed to continue operations until August 31, 2023.

As a result, Civic Administration is recommending that the directors of the board of the London-Middlesex Community Housing be appointed to the board.

Civic administration will continue to work with the new temporary directors of the board of Inter Faith (London) in the medium-term and long-term needs to address continued daily operations, current financial pressures, organizational governance, tenant's housing stability, and future financial stability.

Prepared by:	Dave Purdy, Manager of Municipal Housing
Submitted by	Matt Feldberg, MPA, CET Director, Municipal Housing Development
Recommended by:	Scott Mathers, MPA, P.Eng. Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development

Attached:

Appendix 'A' – Bylaw
Appendix 'B' – Operational Review

Appendix “A” – Bylaw

Bill No.

By-Law No.

A by-law to delegate the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, the authority to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of the City as service manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*

WHEREAS pursuant to Ontario Regulation 367/11, The Corporation of the City of London is a designated service manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, S.O. 2011, c. 6, Sched. 1 (*Housing Services Act, 2011*);

AND WHEREAS pursuant to section 17 of the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, a service manager may, in writing, delegate all or some of its powers and duties under the Act to all or part of its service area;

AND WHEREAS subsection 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London deems it appropriate to delegate its powers and duties under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to the Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development or their written designate;

NOW THEREFORE the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. The Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, is delegated the authority to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of The Corporation of the City of London as service manager under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* with respect to designated housing projects and transferred housing programs in accordance with the *Housing Services Act, 2011* and policies and directives issued by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing applicable to service managers under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.
2. The Deputy City Manager, Planning and Economic Development, or their written designate, is delegated the authority to approve and execute agreements necessary to carry out the authority to perform all of the duties and exercise all of the powers of the City as service manager under the Act with respect to designated housing projects and transferred housing programs. This delegation of authority does not include the authority to approve exit agreements and service agreements under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.
3. This by-law comes into effect on the day it is passed subject to the provisions of PART VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Passed in Open Council on [insert date] subject to the provisions of Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Josh Morgan
Mayor

Michael Schulthess
City Clerk

First reading -
Second reading -
Third reading -

Appendix “B”

Operational Review Committee Report – Inter Faith Homes (London)

Executive Summary

Date: April 29, 2022

Overview

Inter Faith Homes (London) submitted a business case to the City of London as the Service Manager back in June 2020, which identified several areas for review. Since that time, the Municipal Housing team has continued to work with Birch Housing’s administration to address the various components of the business case.

As a result of the Municipal Housing team’s review of the operational needs highlighted within the business case, a one-time subsidy supplement of \$60,000 was approved in May 2021 as an immediate relief to alleviate the urgent operational financial pressures.

In an effort to support Inter Faith Homes’ (London) long-term sustainability, the Municipal Housing team committed to conducting a full operational review of Inter Faith Homes’ (London) operations with the goal of highlighting strengths, opportunities, and areas of risk to highlight useful information to assist the Board in making future decisions towards financial viability. The operational review is also intended to highlight areas for potential future support from the Service Manager.

The operational review started in June 2021 and took several months to review the documentation received, ask follow-up questions, receive supplementary documentation, document our findings and review internally.

During the time of our review, Birch Housing administration reached out to the Municipal Housing team in November 2021 to provide an update on Inter Faith Homes’ (London) cash flow situation which projected a May 2022 deficit of approximately \$30,000. As an immediate relief, the Municipal Housing team temporarily paused the projected subsidy claw-backs from the two outstanding Annual Information Returns (AIR’s) for 2019 and 2020 which essentially offsets the projected May 2022 deficit.

Although Inter Faith Homes (London) has continued to struggle financially, while working with the administration of Birch Housing, there have been many positive activities worth highlighting:

1. Inter Faith Homes London has been extremely engaged in the Municipal Housing team’s capital investment program and has been successful in securing significant capital investment for necessary capital repairs;
2. Inter Faith Homes London has explored other funding options like the Green Municipal Fund initiative;
3. Has engaged the Service Manager with financial challenges; and
4. More recently, adjusting rental rates to address revenue challenges.

While this report completes the last stage of our operational review, it does not complete the journey.

The following provides an overview of specific aspects of the operational review.

Operational Review

1. Review Purpose & Scope

The purpose of the Operational Review is to assist Inter Faith Homes (London), in meeting the requirements of the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, Local Rules and Service Agreement. The operational review is intended to identify areas in which Inter Faith Homes (London) is successfully meeting the requirements of the legislation as well as areas which present opportunities for improvement. Inter Faith Homes (London) is responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with any governmental legislative requirements.

The scope of the report summarizes findings and recommendations in relation to:

- Administration & Governance
- Maintenance & Capital Planning
- Financial Management & Controls

The summary below is only a subset of findings and recommendations that are deemed a priority to be addressed in the short term. Please review the comprehensive Operational Review Report for a complete summary of all other findings and recommendations.

2. Key Findings & Recommendations

a. Governance

Our review has found that Inter Faith Homes (London) has a functioning board with appropriate training and sound succession planning in place. For the Board to effectively meet its fiduciary duties, they must be able to provide effective oversight of the management and administration of the organization's day-to-day operations. As Inter Faith Home (London) is a complex organization with multiple projects, it's important that the information provided and reviewed by the board is relevant and specific to each operating location.

Finding	Recommendation	Priority Level (H/M/L)
<p>Reports to Board of Directors There was no evidence that certain monthly reports such as monthly financial reports, rental arrears, vacancy, capital & maintenance reports contain details specific to each operating region i.e., Inter Faith (London). This can result in important regional information not being identified timely and actioned on.</p> <p>It was noted that certain reports are going to sub-committees, however there was no evidence that these reports are being received by the board.</p>	<p>1. The board needs to receive key reports specific to Inter Faith (London). Key issues and opportunities should be identified and proactively managed.</p>	Medium
<p>Managing & Filling Vacancies Loss in revenue resulting from vacant units can have a material impact on the organization's ability to fund day-to-day operational needs. For the 12 months ending May 31, 2021,</p>	<p>1. Ensure that vacancy reports are reviewed monthly, and actions are identified to remediate the issue.</p>	High

<p>Inter Faith (London) experienced 23 vacancy months resulting in a loss revenue of approximately \$18,000.</p> <p>It is also important for Inter Faith (London) to take reasonable efforts to meet their service level obligations for RGI targets. As of May 31, 2021, Inter Faith (London) was 6 units below the mandated RGI target of 47.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Engage with the Municipal Housing Division to discuss solutions and options to address any challenges that cannot be adequately addressed (i.e., contractor sourcing, restoration costs, etc.). 3. Fill vacant units according to Inter Faith's (London) RGI and Market targets. 	
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b. Capital Management

Based on review of documents and physical inspection, Inter Faith (London) is generally compliant in most areas due to maintenance and repair work that started in 2020. Although some of these repairs & maintenance should have been addressed in prior years, the initiative is commended. The Service Manager also recognizes the time and effort that staff have put into securing additional capital funding in both 2020/21 and 2021/2022 for various capital repairs.

Finding	Recommendation	Priority Level (H/M/L)
<p>Protect Capital Assets Based on our review, certain routine repairs, and maintenance (i.e., electrical and fire alarm replacements) may not have been carried out annually. However, the Service Manager recognizes that Inter Faith (London) has made commendable efforts and progress in catching up on overdue projects.</p> <p>Our review suggests that past irregular maintenance and repair schedules contributed to a small increase in operating costs for 2021. Costs aside, the Service Manager wants to emphasize that attention given to scheduling regular repairs and maintenance will help ensure the long-term sustainability of buildings and structures.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued attention to routine repairs and maintenance by assessing the current state of capital and identifying scope of work needed, related costs, and timing of repairs. 2. Engage with the Municipal Housing Division to highlight areas of concern and explore options. 	High
<p>Legislated Safety Requirements The board of directors has an obligation to ensure that the organization is in compliance with government mandates and regulations. As it relates to buildings and structures, many policies are in place to protect workers and tenants. As such, it is imperative that Inter Faith</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide supporting documentation that the Asbestos Management plan is implemented and maintained in accordance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act. 2. Provide evidence or verification that Material 	High

<p>(London) takes action to ensure that standards are being met.</p> <p>Based on our review, there was no evidence of an Asbestos Management Plan or available Material Safety Data Sheets.</p>	<p>Safety Data Sheets are available on-site for staff.</p>	
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c. Financial Management

Our review identified certain aspects of financial management that are causes for concern. As a non-profit organization, it becomes increasingly important to understand drivers behind monthly and annual variances in Revenues and Expenses. Identifying the causes behind these variances will enable management (i.e., the Board of Directors) to make decisions that may alleviate the financial impact and challenges.

Finding	Recommendation	Priority Level (H/M/L)
<p>Financial Reporting to Board of Directors Based on a sampling of Board meeting minutes, there is no clear evidence that the Board is receiving monthly financial reports for review and decision making.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monthly financial reports, identifying key revenue and expense variances, trending analysis, and identification of risks & opportunities should be analyzed monthly and provided to the board for review. 2. Corrective actions should be identified and implemented proactively. 	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Property Administration Overhead For the purposes of this analysis, administration overhead includes: Asset Management Fee, Property Management fee, and On-Site Building Attendant costs.</p> <p>For year ending 2021, total Property Administration Overhead represent approximately 20% of revenues or \$140,000.</p> <p>Based on our review of other properties, with comparable market/RGI mix, the Asset Management component is unique to this property and represents approximately 8% of revenues or \$56,000.</p> <p>From our review, it is unclear if the Board developed plans to</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Property Administration Overhead costs should be reviewed to ensure this cost can be managed within the operational budget. 2. Any new expenses should be evaluated against the operational budget to ensure that it is funded. 	<p>High</p>

<p>absorb or offset this additional cost.</p>		
<p>HST Rebate Submissions Service Manager capital investments have significantly increased over the last few years creating the recovery of larger than normal HST rebates.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submitting semi-annual HST rebate submissions will have a direct positive impact on cashflow. 2. Engage the Service Manager to identify solutions to minimize the cashflow impact caused by the timing of the HST rebate. 	<p>High</p>
<p>Bad Debts The bad debts expense has increased significantly and remained high in the last few years.</p> <p>This represents an important source of revenue stream and managing this to reasonable levels should be prioritized.</p> <p>Recognizing that our review covered the period of the pandemic, this has been identified for ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>From our review, it is unclear if the Board receives monthly Bad Debts reports.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board needs to receive monthly Bad Debts reports to review and identify any risks & opportunities. 2. Management should action and regularly review the arrears data and implement corrective actions allowed under existing policies. 3. Referral to Housing Stability Table for RGI tenants at risk of eviction especially due to rental arrears. 4. Engaging the Service Manager for RGI tenant issues for support. 	<p>Medium</p>