

**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