

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