

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