

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