

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