

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee  
From: Shari Liggett  
Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, Item PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

Hello Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I realize asking for a total ban on backyard fireworks is a hard sell. Please consider why I feel I have no alternative. Often, I hear a week's worth of fireworks for every holiday, plus some random days which may relate to other culture's holidays? Often, these occur beyond the evening hours (say, midnight through to 2am). I know our overwhelmed police department is not going to respond to a call about fireworks, and I would not call out the local fire department either. So, what is my option for getting this behaviour resolved? I am supposed to go out, alone, in the middle of the night to confront these people? Take a photo? How am I supposed to find out who they are, to make a complaint after the fact to someone at city hall? Do you really think that will solve my problem? These people have the attitude that they can do what they want, when they want, and we just have to "put up with it for a few days". Every year there are accidents because we observe daylight savings time. Imagine how alert I am, driving to work at 7am, when I have been awakened at midnight and again at 1am and again at 2am by some people "having fun", night after night. When I was young, living in another city, we were only allowed to have sparklers. No big noises disrupting sleep, no big noises sending pets running out of yards into the night, no bits of fireworks leftovers smoldering on people's lawns and on their roofs. (Yes, I have had this happen to my home.) The city of my childhood had public fireworks, and that was enough. We had fun in our backyards with sparklers. It would be even better if London had public displays of "quiet" fireworks, but I am sorely afraid you will bow to the people who don't care about others, wildlife, pets nor the environment itself.

I ask that the Mayor and Committee Member vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law - to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

I realize that those entitled people will continue to illegally purchase and use fireworks, but perhaps there will be a better chance for enforcement if this ban is passed.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Shari Liggett