

To: Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee  
From: Sophia Alexopoulos  
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 am writing to ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law ~ to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

The use of fireworks is known to cause distress to countless numbers of people and animals, both wild and domestic, and is rapidly becoming an antiquated form of celebration. It is documented that the noise and bright lights cause distress for many animals, including birds, squirrels, frogs, and fish, and can seriously endanger them and their young. These animals, among others, can flee their homes in fear of the fireworks and abandon their offspring, become disoriented and fly into buildings, flee into territory in which they are not able to survive, or simply die of heart failure. It is barbaric to continue to cause this kind of devastation to so many innocent animals for a few minutes of our pleasure.

Domesticated pets also suffer during the explosions due to the noise affecting their sensitive ears and I know many dogs struggle with this, mine included. I have a golden retriever who paces, drools, and shakes uncontrollably every time anyone sets off fireworks and unfortunately there are many people in our area who do it frequently, and late into the night.

There are also many people who suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and autism who are negatively affected by the overwhelming sights and sounds of fireworks. Not to mention babies and small children who can be very sensitive to noise, especially in the evening when they are trying to sleep or perhaps already colicky.

I would be remiss not to mention the environmental impact the use of fireworks has on our ecosystem, and the damage it causes to our air quality as well as the litter their debris creates.

Many people all around the world are beginning to acknowledge the devastating impact fireworks can have and are choosing to opt for the use of drones instead, thereby allowing people to still gather and celebrate in a way that does not cause death, destruction, or distress for anyone or anything that happens to be nearby. As a society we are becoming more aware of the negative impact we as humans can have on each other, animals, and our environment, and it is time we look to the future and move toward making the world a more safe and comfortable place for everyone, one little step at a time.

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

Thank You,

Sophia Alexopoulos