

To the City clerk's office:

August 3, 2023

This feedback is in response to the City of London's Notice of Public Participation meeting with regard to public and private firework displays in the city.

- As it stands now, members of the public are permitted to buy and set off fireworks in their backyards or in other open spaces like school yards which is clearly in contravention of the city by-laws. Unfortunately, many people are doing so on prohibited days and or times which causes undue stress and frustration for other people in the neighbourhood. People who choose to do so are well aware that there aren't any consequences for their actions as it is too complicated to catch them in the act to enforce the by-law.
- The fact that people ignore the fireworks by-law, shows disrespect and thoughtlessness for the peace and safety of their neighbourhood. They also risk injuring themselves or setting off a fire in the area where they are using the fireworks and cause excessive noise for those around them. It is very unfair that those of us who are not interested in fireworks must endure the consequences (i.e. excessive noise and smell) of those who defend the right to set off fireworks in the neighbourhood. We often hear fireworks being set off unlawfully at Clara Brenton Public School.
- It's hard to understand why the city allows fireworks in neighbourhoods at the displeasure of those in the majority who are opposed to them and begrudgingly must put up with this disturbance.
- The sound of fireworks can be terrifying for animals and people who have suffered war-time trauma in their homeland. This is a serious concern that needs to be discussed when looking at the fireworks by-law.
- If there are to be fireworks at all, they should be displayed in a controlled, professionally run event. Those who wish to enjoy the display can attend such an event and this will considerably reduce the noise in most neighbourhoods and the need to call the hotline to complain about those who are setting off fireworks in contravention of the by-law.

- Our first preference, however, would be to eliminate fireworks completely and to switch to a laser light show that has been used effectively in events in Toronto, Hamilton, Brampton, Guelph, the Peterborough area and even Niagara Falls. This would allow everyone to celebrate the holiday without the issues associated with fireworks.

In conclusion, we are hoping the city will move to laser light shows to permanently replace all fireworks displays so that all Londoners' enjoyment of the holidays will be taken into consideration moving forward.

Sincerely, Nana and Sergio Tirolese