

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern about the use of backyard fireworks in our city. I want to express my support of "Option B", banning all consumer backyard fireworks. I believe they have several negative effects on our environment and community.

Firstly, fireworks can cause significant noise pollution which can be distressing for both humans and animals. The loud noises can cause anxiety and stress in pets and wildlife, leading to disorientation and even injury.

Secondly, fireworks can have a negative impact on the environment. The debris left behind after a fireworks display can pollute our waterways and harm aquatic life. Additionally, the chemicals used in fireworks can contaminate soil and groundwater. My local community park is riddled with fireworks debris following any long weekend in the summer.

Finally, fireworks pose a significant fire safety hazard. They can easily ignite dry grass or other flammable materials, leading to wildfires that can cause significant damage to homes and property.

While I wish people could be responsible and follow the current by-laws regarding fireworks, my experience living in multiple areas of the city has been that many people do not respect the current rules, discharging fireworks multiple days outside of the allowed windows and long past the 11pm deadline. I believe the only way to provide an experience that is best for all people in our community - considering that most people do not discharge fireworks but have no say in how others do or do not follow the by-laws - is to ban backyard fireworks altogether and follow up with enforcement. Those who wish to experience fireworks on holidays can still attend fireworks displays that have been allowed by permit.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that backyard fireworks should be banned in our community. I urge you to take action to protect our environment and community by supporting a ban on backyard fireworks.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Nate Hans