

Good evening council

Many of my fellow advocates have and will be speaking to you about concerns connected with firework shows. They are providing you with vital facts about people who suffer from mental illness such as PTSD and household pets and wildlife suffering anxiety, as well as facts on the negative effects of fireworks on our environment. All strong and important reasons why London should both ban the public sale/use of fireworks, AND why London should invest in sustainable people/animal/environmentally friendly options.

I, however, would like to speak about the overall excessive cost. I have researched the cost of an average "main event" fireworks display and found that it costs an average of \$500 - \$1000 PER MINUTE. Here in London, we typically see a 30 min display. That is a minimum cost of \$15,000 up to \$30,000 per show. At 2 shows per year that is an annual cost of between \$30,000 - \$60,000 for a total of 1 hour of what is entertaining to some, but life shattering to many others.

I would like to propose to the council, starting 2024 London invests those funds into more sustainable, people/animal and environmentally friendly forms of light shows, such as computer programmed mini drones. After 1-2 years once an appropriate size Fleet is acquired, London will be able to have lightshows not just the typical celebrated occasions such as Canada Day, but also for local events such as Rib feast, sun feast and so much more, for only a fraction of the cost, freeing up funds that can be allocated to other major issues within our city such as the need for more RGI/Supportive housing and mental health and drug addiction services

I also strongly support my fellow advocates in their request to have London follow the example of Woodstock and ban the public sale and use of fireworks withing London starting in 2024, thereby allowing the retailers time to sell any existing stock.