

Dear Members of Council,

This year several U.S. cities cancelled their fireworks display because of poor air quality from forest fires burning in B.C. On July first, London was under an air quality alert, advising that people with respiratory illnesses remain indoors, yet this city went ahead with a fireworks display anyways.

Fireworks are not important. They are extremely polluting because the explosive material in fireworks is black powder. They are not more important than people's health, the life of wildlife, or scaring young children or pets. With more highrises being built, the sounds bounding off the tall buildings amplifies the sound and this year it sounded as if bombs were being dropped on the city. There are better and exciting alternatives to fireworks, and there really isn't any reason to continue the use of fireworks.

The current fireworks by-law is not enforceable. Explosive products are being sold to private citizens who then set off fireworks at all hours of the night. Staff are literally looking for a needle in a haystack when trying to chase down illegal fireworks displays.

I was one of those people that went to the survey site but did not fill it out because I found it 'leading'. I support a total fireworks display ban and a move to laser and drone lights as these are as beautiful as any fireworks display. Businesses that currently sell fireworks need to transition out into other products that are as celebratory but not harmful.

Sincerely

Simon Richards