

**To:** Mayor Josh Morgan, Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee

**From:** Jeff Tennant

**Re:** 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023,

**Item:** PPM, Fireworks By-law Review on the Agenda

**Date:** August 14, 2023

Dear Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing, as a resident of London, to express my concerns regarding consumer fireworks in advance of the August 15, 2023 meeting at which a proposed by-law addressing the matter will be discussed.

During my 31 years living in London, in Old North for the past 22 of these years, my family has experienced the negative effects of consumer fireworks on numerous occasions, from disruptions of our sleep caused by violations of the current by-law (fireworks set off outside of times permitted by the bylaw) to our dog fleeing to the basement or hiding under a bed because she was terrified by the noise of these explosive devices. I vividly recall an incident during Canada Day neighbourhood fireworks at the corner of St. James and Hellmuth in the late 2010s in which still burning pieces of one of these devices landed dangerously close to a group of spectators. Several of us had to move quickly to avoid getting hurt. Fortunately, no one was injured in that close-call incident, but it was a clear reminder of how dangerous these explosives can be, something my partner knows well because she witnessed the aftermath of a fatal fireworks accident in Spain in the 1980s.

In addition to these personal experiences of noise problems and threats to safety, I am aware of many other harms caused by consumer fireworks, from environmental impacts to trauma inflicted on people who suffer from PTSD and on birds animals, both domestic and in the wild. There are many alternatives to consumer fireworks available that still allow families and groups of friends and neighbours to enjoy celebratory times together, but in a way that does not disturb neighbours, threaten safety, and cause other harms.

I strongly urge that you vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law – to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Thank you very much for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



Jeff Tennant  
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