

**Date:** August 14, 2023

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

**From:** Jeff Orchard

**Re: 12th Meeting of Community and Protective Services Committee, August 15, 2023, PPM, Fireworks By-law Review**

Dear Chair Pelozo, Mayor Morgan and CSPC Committee Members,

I am writing to ask is that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law: to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

I would begin with the questions: is the current way of doing things with respect to fireworks effective? And would a greater good be achieved by banning the consumer sale of fireworks? The answer to the first question is that the current set up is not working, as evidenced by the volume of complaints about fireworks being setting off at random times and places indiscriminately. And, the answer to the second question is: Yes.

A greater good would be achieved by the ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks. The effect on the environment, wildlife, pets and infant children, is well documented. There are precedents for such bans in neighbouring municipalities, such as Brampton and Woodstock, and what's more, those bans are proving to be effective.

For me personally, after each public holiday, such as the Victoria Day Long weekend and Canada Day long weekend, my pet dog and I navigate a veritable minefield and pick up the discarded shells and remnants of fireworks in the park behind my house.

For my neighbour from worn-torn Syria, who suffers from PTSD, the effect of exploding fireworks is more visceral, his condition exacerbated by the indiscriminate exploding of fireworks in and around the neighbourhood. For my friend who has taken in a single mother and her daughter, who sought refuge in Canada and a more peaceful life, after fleeing the Ukraine, the daughter quakes in fear at the sounds. And the greater good would be achieved for my long-time friend, Josh, who is autistic, and who locks himself in his basement every July 1<sup>st</sup> and Victoria Day weekend.

In closing, I thank you for your consideration of this matter, and ask that the Mayor and Committee Members vote for Option B of the proposed Fireworks By-law: to ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

Yours Sincerely,  
Jeff Orchard