

From: Vicki Van Linden

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 12:29 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Agenda for August 29, 2023 - Urging council members to support Option B regarding Fireworks

Dear Mayor, and Members of Council:

Please support Option B on fireworks when it comes to vote at council.

Banning the private sale of fireworks is a reasonable option.

City-sanctioned events that use noisy fireworks will still be harmful and distressing to many humans and animals, but there would be greater control of the number of days that these harmful chemical products could be used. And, there is a possibility that our city will in the future adopt the amazing light shows that contribute to fun and celebration without causing hurt to those of us who are sensitive to noise. Celebrations can continue, with adaptations. For those who have come to believe that Canada Day needs to be celebrated by the setting off of fireworks, this is simply a habit. The city can provide celebrations including light shows that will delight, without causing a distressing and traumatic evening for others.

I urge each of you to recognize our modern understanding of how harmful these loud and frightening displays are for many of us. If these fireworks products were to be suggested today for the first time, setting alight toxic chemicals that cause loud explosions, I expect that they would never be legalized.

Option B is a good compromise. For those who believe that they can't express themselves without fireworks I am confident that other forms of light displays can fill that void. Traditions can be adapted, and it is entirely reasonable to ask citizens to do so when we come to understand the negative side effects of specific activities. Change is a regular part of living together in a complex and inter-connected society, and asking people to change something that is not essential for life is not a denial of rights.

The recent barn fire that was caused by the use of private fireworks demonstrates that once purchased, the fireworks can be used at any time of the year, and can be used in unsafe ways. A one million dollar barn fire was caused by fireworks, yet the manufacturers and proponents of fireworks will continue to tell us how safe they are.

Please, vote to move London into a more modern era and support Option B on fireworks and ban the personal sale and use of fireworks.

Respectfully,

Vicki Van Linden

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address provided on request