



REGIONAL COUNCILLOR DENNIS KEENAN

WARDS 3 & 4

August 22, 2023

Hello Mayor Morgan and Council Members,

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My name is Dennis Keenan, and I am writing to you as a Regional Councillor in the City of Brampton for Wards 3 & 4. I understand that at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting that took place on August 15th, the committee supported Option A in regards to the firework discussion. It was great to see the public engagement process at that meeting and the many opinions from residents and firework vendors.

I'd like to note that in previous years, the City of Brampton also tried to decrease the usage of fireworks, while maintaining some days and specific types of fireworks, and it was not successful.

First and foremost, I want to commend you on bringing this review forward and for entertaining a motion to ban fireworks within the City of London. Decisions like these are not easy to make within diverse communities because of the difference of many opinions, and other considerations such as holidays that historically use fireworks. It is never easy to take these types of steps for the betterment of your municipality, so kudos to you. That being said, I strongly believe that as a committee and council member, it is your duty to listen to the wants and needs of your residents as large decisions such as these, come with positive results and impacts to the entire community.

It is important to note that prior to our ban, some of the largest firework problems in Brampton were not only on major holidays, but on random nights of the week - within residential neighbourhoods - which created many dangerous situations for by-standers. The effect on our environment and air quality, the safety of our residents and the cost associated with emergency services being dispatched for accidental fires, were all contributing factors to bringing this ban forward.

In November 2022, I brought forward a motion to amend Brampton's firework By-law. The new By-law proposed to ban the sale and use of fireworks, increase the current fines, limit the use of fireworks to the film industry and city-run events, and add a firework show for Diwali, so that the community can still come together to celebrate culture, in a safe environment. **This motion passed unanimously.**



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We listened to the voices of our residents regarding environmental and safety concerns of fireworks and took action for the betterment of our community.

Since our By-law passed last November, we have received positive resident feedback both via emails, 311 and on our social media accounts, as well as created a safe environment for our children and better air quality for our elderly. I'm sure you might also be experiencing cost burdens for emergency services, 911 dispatch, and cleanup pertaining to fireworks within commercial plazas, parks or residential areas in London, and although we have no reports of financial impact to date, I can say that the City of Brampton did not look at this as a way to raise finances. This motion was put forward to make our community more liveable and safe. Expenses pertaining to this motion went towards educating the community, and we will be able to realize the true scope of impacted financials further down the road.

We know that this is a marathon, but we are willing to stay the course. Our objective is not to fine the community, it's to educate them on the safety and environmental concerns and to stop the use altogether. With time, education and additional municipalities like yours following suit, this can be the new norm.

When presenting the possibility of this ban within London, you will receive many residents, or even fellow Council members, asking how you will be able to enforce such a ban. The strategy that I put forth, alongside our leadership team, was to use other city departments on major nights to help spread the word and educate those whom were still setting off fireworks. We had parks & rec monitoring the parks, and fire prevention and public works employees providing education and street patrols. When residents weren't listening to those city officials, then By-law would visit those calls and enforce fines.

Without a doubt however, the biggest impact to our community to date was including the year-round ban to sell fireworks within Brampton. The accessibility of purchasing the fireworks at local stores, or within trailers parked in commercial parking lots, needs to be taken away. I repeat, the only way that a ban of fireworks will work, is if it is in tandem with the sale of the product.



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In conclusion, I strongly believe that the ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks will have a positive impact within any city. As additional municipalities like Caledon and Woodstock prohibit the sale of fireworks, it will become more difficult for residents to access them in nearby towns. We are in the midst of a climate emergency and we must act now to reduce our impact on the environment and keep our residents safe from the misuse of fireworks.

I hope the information that I have provided will be helpful in your decision making and I wish you all the best. At the end of the day, do what is best for your municipality.

Thank you for your consideration,



Regional Councillor Dennis Keenan

City of Brampton

Wards 3 & 4