



# The Hindu Cultural Centre, London, Ontario

62 Charterhouse Cres, London, ON N5W 5V5

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Dear Members of the City Council,

City of London  
300 Dufferin Avenue,  
PO Box 5035, London,  
ON, N6A 4L9

Namaste!

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hindu Cultural Centre (HCC). As a representative of our temple, I would like to express our sincere thanks to CPSC for taking into consideration the concerns brought up by the Hindu Community at the PPM on August 15 and Voting for Option A. I acknowledge and appreciate the City Council's ongoing commitment to public safety and environmental considerations.

As you now prepare to vote, I would like to remind you that Diwali is a deeply significant and joyous festival for Hindus. It is known as the Festival of Lights, holds significant religious and cultural importance for Hindus around the world. Fireworks play an integral role in expressing our happiness and bringing people together during this festival. By lighting fireworks, we commemorate the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

With more than 10,000 Hindus in London, a complete ban of fireworks would diminish the spirit and essence of Diwali celebrations for the Hindu community. This festival serves as a bridge between generations, connecting our past, present, and future. It is an occasion where families and friends come together, strengthening the bonds within our community.



To shed light on the importance of Diwali at HCC, I would like to mention that HCC was founded in early 1970's in the City of London and the temple was fully operational on Diwali day in November 1990. Since then, it has remained a cherished pillar of our community, providing a space for both religious and cultural gatherings and Diwali has been celebrated every year at the temple. It acts as a focal point for fostering unity, respect, and understanding among people of different backgrounds.

I understand the concerns raised regarding safety and the environmental impact associated with fireworks. To address these issues, Option A is a more balanced solution. By choosing Option A, the Hindu Community in London can preserve the essence of its cultural traditions while ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

Furthermore, the Hindu Cultural Centre would like to express its willingness to collaborate and work in tandem with the City Council and relevant authorities by assisting in organizing educational campaigns, workshops, and events that focus on responsible firework usage and environmental sustainability.

In conclusion, I on behalf of members of HCC kindly request the City Council to consider Option A, which will allow the community to celebrate Diwali in a manner that aligns with our traditions.

HCC firmly believes that a balanced approach can be achieved, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community while respecting our cultural heritage.

I sincerely hope that our concerns will be given thoughtful consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Vishal Kothari  
HCC President