

City of London Council Members,

It has recently come to my attention that there has recently been a vote with respect to the fireworks by-law and expansion of allowable dates/times for fireworks. I sincerely hope you reconsider your votes in favour of option A and vote for option B.

Expansion of fireworks in the city is not only an excessive noise disturbance, but this also wakes up and terrifies young children who are in bed at 7 PM, creates unnecessary anxiety for pets and has a damaging environmental impact.

My dog in particular constantly pants and has incredibly anxiety when fireworks are consistently going off. This past Victoria Day weekend, neighbours across the street were setting off fireworks on their front lawn, not more than 30 feet away from our front door and this completely traumatized my dog. The grass and roadway were also littered with ashes and unnecessary fireworks debris. My young son was also woken up with the fireworks, which is detrimental to his sleep hygiene needs and the needed sleep he requires for development.

I would also like to note that various members of the Hindu community have claimed that the fireworks are contrary to their Charter of Rights. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it, subject only to such **reasonable limits** prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society. It is not reasonable to increase the fireworks to the detriment of every other taxpayer in the City of London.

A ban on consumer fireworks does not violate Section 2a of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The current prohibition, which now applies to all members of the public is based on a legitimate and substantial public safety and harm reduction objective. We already have proof that the Hindu community's claim to violation of freedom of conscious and religion would fail a Section 1 analysis due to the extensive public safety and harm caused by fireworks; this was demonstrated by all of the letters and public speeches from residents who have experienced harm.

I urge all Council members to please consider **ALL** of residents of the City of London who want to be able to enjoy their homes in a safe and peaceful manner and vote for Option B.

Thank you for your consideration of this incredibly important issue.



Lisa Madter

City of London Resident