

From: Lorrie

Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 8:52 PM

To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>; Masse, Penny <pmasse@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT CHANGE redacted comment about local vendor. Fireworks letter for Agenda Aug 29

I consent that this letter be included in agenda and public record.

Good day Honourable Mayor Josh Morgan, Community and Protective Services Committee, City Council members

There are two main sections of this letter. The first part will address concerns with sale and launching of backyard fireworks. The second part will address the facts about the harms of fireworks.

Firstly, as part of my research into option A versus option B , in preparation for the CPSC public participation meeting, I put in a call to a local Fireworks vendor. As a result, they told me that I could give them a credit card number and they would meet me somewhere to purchase the fireworks!. I was shocked, this occurred mid-August, very much outside the existing bylaw window. I was on speaker phone, and have additional witnesses. The potential sale of fireworks throughout the year is just one of the reasons why we need a clear and simple fireworks ban bylaw.

The vast majority of Londoners respect the laws and bylaws, thus a clear bylaw, removing harmful backyard fireworks and the sale of backyard fireworks, will go a long way in reducing complaints and therefore enforcement issues.

Less opportunity for backyard fireworks equals less complaints.

It is obvious that Option A will still allow for those that like “wobble room” as they stretch and push the dates and times for fireworks. This is essentially what enforcement is already dealing with, and additionally, it does not solve any of the harms of backyard fireworks. I have yet to have a conversation with someone who said they love being startled by backyard fireworks. Instead they all had a negative experiences to share.

\*Please know that this is not about an attack on a religious celebration, this is about an attack on our environment and our community. It's about doing the right thing, doing our small part for a clean and healthy future for our children and our grandchildren.

Given the times we find ourselves in, and the mounting evidence of personal and environmental harms of fireworks, it is illogical to continue with this old practice. For those who struggle to let go of the idea of tradition, please consider the following well established harms.

Harm to the family whose sense of safety and comfort in their own home is completely disrupted by a neighbour launching loud banging combustibles into the sky.

Harm to the new parents with young children trying to sleep at night.

Harm to the shift worker suddenly woken from much needed sleep.

Harm to your neighbour, perhaps a refugee, or someone suffering from PTSD or anxiety, their sleep disrupted in terror.

Harm to the pet owner, who loves their terrified dog more than anything.

Harm to the wildlife who are panicked to run or fly, separated from their dependent offspring. Baby birds and animals left to die.

Harm to the parks, dry fields and forests, risking wildfires and house fires in our changing climate.

Harm to the fish and organisms in our beautiful lakes and rivers as toxic ash falls to our waterways.

Fireworks are not magic lights, they are metals and chemicals and gunpowder. The combustion byproducts stay in our air, water and soil. London needs a bylaw that leaves no ambiguity about backyard fireworks. A bylaw that is clear and simple.

There is a growing list of cities across Ontario and around the world, doing the right thing. Given that we now know the truth about fireworks and the state of our environment, how can we continue this old practice? London, we are better than this.

Please do the right thing, for all of us, and vote bylaw option B.

One final note. There were fireworks going off last week in my neighbourhood. Imagine if they were banned and we could all sleep better, all four hundred and fifty thousand of us.

It's 2023, and the people of London are counting on you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Miller