

TO: Community and Protective Services Committee

FROM: Deanna Ronson

RE: 5th Meeting of the CPSC, March 18, 2024, Item 2 (2.6) on the Agenda, Business Licensing By-law and Fireworks By-law — Amendments

Dear Chair Pelosa and Committee Members,

We are writing with concerns regarding the Business Licensing By-law. We believe that the Staff report fails to address some important questions that have been raised several times by our group, starting in July 2022.

1. How will the City determine the number of fireworks stands that are licensed, and how are these licenses allocated to the vendors? Is it first come, first served, are there location limits as to how close they can be? Is there a limit on "seasonal sales businesses" (ie, "pop-up vendors)? Are unlimited licenses available so long as a vendor has procured space from a property owner?
2. In the Staff Report, Item 2. (2.2 p. 70 of the agenda), the third bullet point reads, "*All licensed retail outlets will be required to provide communications to clients on safety and by-law regulations.*" This point is extremely vague. What exactly are the "communications"? Is verbal notice on general safety and by-law sufficient? Will written communications be mandated? Will these communications need pre-approval approved by City Staff to ensure their accuracy?
3. What steps will the City routinely take to ensure that vendors are in full compliance with all of the requirements contained in the Fireworks By-law? That is, will full inspections of the vendors' premises be regular and routine, or will they only be completed on a complaint basis?
4. How will the City compile the inspection results and how will the public access these reports? Will there be a public list of vendors by address along with a copy of the license that they have with the City?
5. How will the City make sure that only the fireworks' products listed in the by-law are available?

We believe that it is important that the questions above be answered **before** the Business Licensing By-law is passed.

Regarding Item 3.0 in the Staff Report (Next Steps), we would like to see either Municipal Compliance or Civic Administration add an official online fireworks complaint report system to the City of London's website. Your committee has heard from many residents that the current report system is broken. Folks can either not get through on the phone lines or there is no way to leave their information. The City needs a streamlined complaint process.

The City of Mississauga is just one Ontario city that has a fine example of online reporting (<https://www.mississauga.ca/services-and-programs/health-and-safety/fire-and-emergency-services/fireworks/>). Residents input their personal information, give a location for the fireworks violation and state whether or not the fireworks were set off outside the permitted day, the permitted times, non-permitted fireworks or setting off in an approved manner. There is a space for additional comments.

By implementing an **accessible, streamlined online reporting system** for fireworks violations, the City would be better equipped to track fireworks' violations.

Thank you for taking the time to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

Deanna Ronson
Londoners for "Quiet" Fireworks