

Fireworks By-law Review



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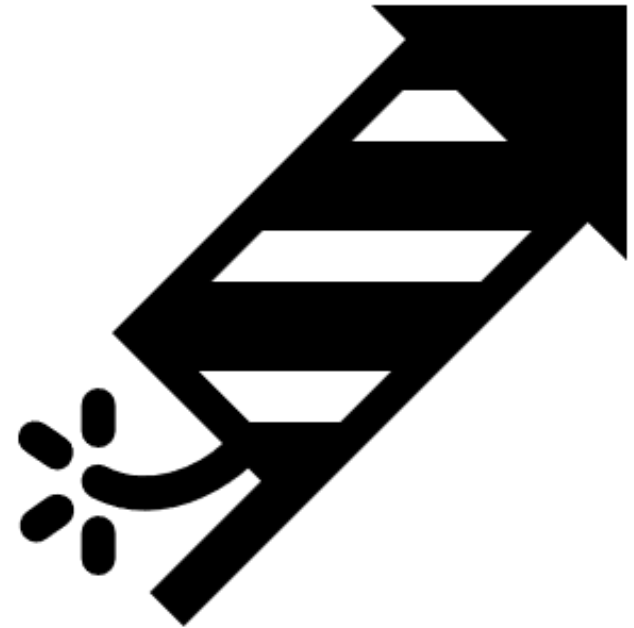
Service Performance Development Analyst

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Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the fireworks by-law review that City staff conducted as directed by Council.

Staff are also seeking Council approval for the creation of a Fireworks By-law based on a permit system.



2024 Celebrations of Note

- Lunar New Year – February 10
- Victoria Day – May 20 (currently allowed)
- Canada Day – July 1 (currently allowed)
- Diwali – November 1 (currently allowed)
- New Year's Eve – December 31

Human and Environmental Impacts

- Noise pollution
- Chemical and physical pollution
- Risk of fire
- Bodily harm
- Mental health and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- Wildlife and pets

Options under consideration

- Option 1: keep existing days and improve safety
- Option 2: increase the number of allowed days to other culturally significant days and improve safety
- Option 3: by permit only
- Option 4: total ban

Community Engagement

- 1,327 communities participated in the survey
- 55 per cent of respondents felt safe or very safe when in relation to professional fireworks
- 56 per cent of respondents indicated they were supportive to very supportive of a firework ban

Key themes in the survey comments

- Safety and environmental concerns
- Noise and disturbance are challenges
- Regulation and improved enforcement
- Preference for public vs. private displays
- Cultural and community significance

Recommendations

Staff recommend a by-law based on a permit system for large fireworks displays such as community and special events. The by-law would include regulations such as:

- Minimum safe distances from residences and all vulnerable occupancies (schools, nursing, and care facilities)
- Displays be discharged by a licensed display supervisor
- Sufficient liability insurance
- Inspections for safety
- Fireworks should be planned for acceptable times and locations
- Animal safety management

Recommendation

1. That staff be directed to create a new permit-based fireworks by-law to replace and repeal Fireworks By-law (1993)-14362.

Thank you

