

Dear Members of the Guelph City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed ban on the use of personal fireworks during Diwali within the city of Guelph. While I understand that fireworks have become an associated element of Diwali celebrations for some in recent years, it is important to clarify that fireworks are not a traditional or essential practice of Diwali.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, has deep spiritual significance, celebrating the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Traditionally, this has been symbolized through the lighting of oil lamps (diyas), decorating homes, exchanging sweets, and spending time with family. The emphasis is on spiritual renewal, peace, and community harmony rather than loud celebrations or large-scale fireworks displays.

In fact, the excessive use of personal fireworks contradicts the very principles Diwali stands for, as it leads to air pollution, noise disturbance, and potential harm to wildlife and the community. Many people, including the elderly, children, pets, and individuals with health conditions, are negatively affected by fireworks. Moreover, the environmental impact, especially in terms of air quality, is a growing concern that cannot be overlooked.

By implementing this ban, Guelph would be fostering a safer, more inclusive environment for all its residents, while still respecting the cultural essence of Diwali. This would allow those celebrating to focus on the more meaningful aspects of the festival—like unity, reflection, and the lighting of lamps—without causing harm or discomfort to others.

I strongly urge the City Council to move forward with this ban, as it will benefit the community as a whole and encourage more eco-friendly and peaceful ways of celebrating this cherished festival.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tanvir Singh