

Council Meeting
November 20, 2023

Comments Received Regarding Item 10.4

Sale and Discharge of Consumer Fireworks –
Response to Staff Direction

From: Joy Oja
Sent: November 14, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Town Clerks <TownClerk@oakville.ca>
Subject: Re: Item # 10.4 - November 20, 2023

Re: Sale & Discharge of Consumer Fireworks

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in this issue.

I hope my email will be the correct way of addressing this issue. If not please let me know as I would like to have a say in this decision.

It is time for fireworks to be no longer a burden to the majority of the people in Oakville. Anyone I have ever spoken to regardless of age, ethnicity and gender ALL agree fireworks have NO place in our society. They are now being used as weapons. Not to mention fire hazards to our homes.

I have often written to our Mayor and Town Council regarding what our faithful friends (dogs and cats) must go through during these times. Fireworks start on Friday evening and continue right through to Tuesday. It does not seem to matter about the time. I am woken up every single holiday - 1:00 am, 2:00 am and so on.

I am involved in the puppy world and I want to assure you that MOST of our pets go through PTSD each time one is lit off.

Are we really supposed to contact the authorities at this time for an official complaint when we do not even know where they are coming from. This topic has fallen on deaf ears long enough.

I am also thoroughly disgusted that fireworks were being lit off on our most precious Remembrance Day. This is an atrocity not to mention completely disrespectful of our fallen heroes. Shame.

I do hope Oakville will finally act on this. I now dread, as I know many others do as well, all of our long weekends and holidays.

Kindly,

Joy Oja

From: Sherry Luik
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2023 9:33 AM
To: _Ward6 <Ward6@Oakville.ca>
Subject: Fireworks by-law and safety

I am writing to express my concern and request for some type of action on behalf of the Joshua Creek community due to the amount of fireworks in the neighbourhood set off on every holiday - multiple nights, for several hours, in parks (most certainly without permit) and in residential streets. If there is not a push for an outright ban on private fireworks in residential areas, then there should be enforcement of current by-laws, along with education within the ward on the current guidelines and

restrictions.

My concerns are varied, but most notably they are personal as we are one of the unfortunate families whose dog is fearful and anxious for hours, even with vet prescribed medication we spend hours managing anxious behaviours every time they are set off around multiple holidays and sometimes up to 5-6 days "around" a holiday. The park behind Joshua Creek public school is of most concern, as it is used by residents for full blown fireworks displays (permit required) with the remains left all over the fields where children play and many walk with their dogs - a danger to both. Walking in the neighbourhood in the evening, I've had neighbours walk into the path of families using the residential streets to set off fireworks and others who have had their pool liners burned by errant fireworks set off by neighbours in the parkettes or adjacent yards. How is this even permitted in residential areas - as there are so many safety issues and fire hazards?

I have attempted to make reports to the town using the phone and online reporting system - both to no avail. Cases are closed the next day and there is no immediate response and no indicated action. I can't imagine that there is enough manpower to patrol for fireworks bylaw compliance - and obvious safety concerns - even for officers - as seen with the recent issue this past holiday in Bronte area. But as this issue is completely out of control - what measures is the town, and can this ward take to address residents concerns?

Anne Lahey

16th November, 2023.

Mayor Burton & Oakville Town Council

1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6H 0H3

Dear Mayor Burton,

I am providing this letter as input for upcoming council discussions regarding by-laws concerning fireworks in public parks and spaces.

I live in the northeast neighborhood of Joshua Creek. My property backs on to Joshua Creek Public School and the adjacent parkland. This large park area is used consistently for neighborhood fireworks displays on many holidays throughout the year, but the recent events of November 13 and 14th were quite disturbing. The events began around 9 pm and continued for more than an hour. The types of fireworks used created extremely loud explosions that rattled our windows and frightened our dog, who paced and panted frantically for hours. He could not even be coaxed out after they were over in order to relieve himself.

While I understand celebrations and enjoy fireworks myself, those taking place within close proximity to homes, schools and public spaces need to be stopped. They are a danger to those setting them off, as well as the properties (both public and private) around them. They directly interfere with the calm and wellbeing people expect to have in the privacy of their homes.

I hope that Oakville will take the lead along with some of the other surrounding municipalities and put firm by-laws, regulations and penalties in place to deter this behaviour in the future.

Sincerely,

Anne Lahey

Hi Nav & Scott,

I understand there is a meetin tonight on fireworks topic.

As I will not be able to join, as a resident I do NOT support the total ban on fireworks.

Sure the time can be more restricted (10pm or so for fall/winter) or space can be better defined, though NOT A complete ban.

We celebrate Diwali wth some fireworks (Safely & with proper dispose off & no mess left after).& would want to continue the same.

Thanks for your support

Aman

Dear Town of Oakville Staff,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to express my thoughts regarding the recent consideration of banning fireworks on religious holidays. While I understand the concerns raised, I believe that instead of a ban, we should focus on creating safe spaces for communities to display and celebrate fireworks. This approach would foster inclusivity and respect for diverse religious traditions while ensuring public safety.

I acknowledge that there have been instances where some individuals did not follow the by-laws regarding fireworks. However, it is important to remember that not all who celebrate are lawbreakers. Punishing everyone for the actions of a few is not an equitable or effective solution. By implementing measures to educate and enforce the by-laws more effectively, we can encourage responsible behaviour while still allowing for the enjoyment of fireworks during religious holidays.

I would appreciate Town staff exploring potential solutions that can address the concerns raised while still recognizing the rights and traditions of our community members. Unfortunately, I am not available this evening to attend the meeting but above are my thoughts for consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Vishal Kapoor