

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 3:24 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, August 7, 2023 - 15:23

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, August 07, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Ramesh

Last Name: Thirumalai

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] kenaschuk Lane

Neighbourhood: [Aspen Ridge](#)

City: saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.3.4 Implications for Recognizing Religious and Cultural Celebrations for Fireworks Displays [EUCS2023-0807]

Comments:

Dear Members of the City Council,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you and all esteemed council members for dedicating your time to review the petition advocating for the allowance of fireworks on Diwali and other cultural celebrations. This endeavor signifies a significant stride towards inclusivity, honoring the rich diversity, and respecting the cherished traditions of our community members.

The significance of fireworks in cultural and religious celebrations cannot be understated. These vibrant displays encapsulate feelings of joy, happiness, and unity, serving as a visual expression of our shared heritage. By granting permission for fireworks during these special moments, the City has the opportunity to exemplify its commitment to nurturing an environment of understanding and reverence for the customs and practices of its residents.

In light of this, I wish to emphasize that numerous cities across Canada have already embraced similar initiatives, fostering more lenient regulations for fireworks during celebrations. Notable examples include Brampton, Mississauga, and Kitchener, where fireworks are permitted on Diwali without requiring a permit. The positive impact of this gesture on community spirit and cohesion during such festivities is undeniable and heartening.

I would also like to bring to your attention a factual inaccuracy present in the report titled "Implications for Recognizing Religious and Cultural Celebrations for Fireworks Displays."

The report suggests that the Canadian government is actively contemplating a ban on consumer fireworks based on a proposal from the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC). However, I wish to clarify that this information is not entirely accurate.

The report states, "The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs advocated to the federal government in September 2022 to ban the sale and use of all consumer fireworks due to risk of injuries and fires. Their request does not include the discharge of fireworks by licensed technicians. This is currently under consideration, with no decision yet. Your Administration also supports this approach."

In contrast, it is imperative to acknowledge that the Canadian government has actually rejected the CAFC's proposal to ban consumer fireworks. A comprehensive report, released on May 26, 2023, clearly documents the rejection of the CAFC's recommendations to either ban or restrict consumer fireworks. The government's stance, which is substantiated by scientific research, underscores the importance of maintaining risk-based consumer fireworks regulations. The proposed amendments aim to uphold safety and security without imposing undue burdens.

For your reference, I invite you to review the Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 21: "Regulations Amending the Explosives Regulations, 2013, Section Regulatory consultation (spring 2022)" for a comprehensive understanding of the government's position. The report can be accessed through the following link:

<https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2023/2023-05-27/html/reg3-eng.html>

Furthermore, it is vital to emphasize that the intent of the Canadian government is to ease certain consumer fireworks regulations through careful amendments, rather than pursue an outright ban or introduce new restrictive measures.

In light of these factual clarifications, I earnestly urge the City Council to take into account the insights provided by Canada's national fireworks experts and independent scientists. Their collective expertise firmly attests that consumer fireworks are safe for use by all Canadians, including children under adult supervision. This perspective should play an integral role in your deliberation process.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this matter and your dedication to making an informed decision based on accurate information. Our community's well-being and cultural vibrancy are of utmost importance, and I trust that

your decision will be well-grounded in the factual context surrounding the proposal. I implore the City Council to thoughtfully deliberate the ramifications of allowing fireworks on Diwali and other significant cultural events. This transformative decision would unequivocally signify the City's dedication to embracing its multicultural tapestry and honouring the intrinsic value of diverse traditions.

Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation for your time and unwavering commitment in this matter.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No