

Saskatoon Police Bear Spray Proposal

Appendix 2



SASKATOON
POLICE SERVICE
BE THE DIFFERENCE

(306) 975-8300
SASKATOONPOLICE.CA
BOX 1728, SASKATOON, SK S7K 3R6

March 27, 2025

City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Avenue N
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Attention: Matt Grazier, Director of Community Standards

Dear Director Grazier:

Re: Request for Consideration of Amendments to Bylaw 9746, Business License Bylaw 2021

Please accept this request on behalf of the Saskatoon Police Service for consideration of amendments to be made to Bylaw 9746, Business License Bylaw 2021. Under this bylaw there are mandatory reporting requirements of used goods sales and purchase of metals for businesses in Saskatoon. The Saskatoon Police Service would like to see the sale of wildlife control products, commonly referred to as "bear spray," become part of mandatory reporting under the bylaw in effort to address the public safety concern bear spray presents to our community.

Currently there is no bylaw regarding the sale of wildlife control products in Saskatoon. A wildlife control product is a product designed to repel wildlife through the discharge of a liquid or other substance through a pressurized spray mechanism that contains capsaicin in a concentration of 0.6 percent or more, and contains a total volume of liquid or other substance that exceeds 50 grams. This product is not designed to be used on humans and its misuse has risen substantially in Saskatoon and other communities in Canada over the last five years. As this misuse of wildlife control products has created a notable public safety concern for residents in public spaces in Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Police Service is looking to the City of Saskatoon to include wildlife control product sales reporting mandatory under this bylaw in effort to reduce the amount of product available and to create purchasing and reporting guidelines that can be enforced.

Guidelines that the Saskatoon Police Service proposes for consideration for amendments to Bylaw 9746, regarding mandatory reporting of wildlife control product sales, include but are not limited to the following:

- Minimum age of both purchaser and seller of wildlife control products, be 18 years of age;
- Purchaser of wildlife control products be required to produce two forms of identification;
- All sales of wildlife control products be reported to the Saskatoon Police Service within 7 days of the sale. Preference to this reporting would be to have it done through LEEDS or a similar electronic program;

BE THE DIFFERENCE

- Purchase information to be recorded by the vendor to include the purchasers name, date of birth, address, phone number, copies of the two pieces of identification used for the sale, and make, model and serial number of the wildlife control product;
- All wildlife control products be stored securely by the vendor, not advertised or visible to the purchaser until the point of sale;
- All wildlife control products being sold must meet the following requirements, have a visible serial number, and can only be sold while still in their original factory packaging.

The requested amendments are being proposed with the intention these changes will have an effect on the frequency of wildlife control product sales thus reducing the amount of wildlife control products being misused in our city. Lastly, by having these amendments as part of the bylaw, the Saskatoon Police Service will then have enforcement ability in monitoring the vendors that continue to sell wildlife control products to those involved in the misuse of the product, in best efforts to enhance public safety within our community. Should you have any questions or concerns about this request, please contact Inspector Doug McNeil of our Community Engagement Division, at 306 986 0975, or by email at doug.mcneil@police.saskatoon.sk.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron McBride', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cameron McBride, M.O.M.
Chief of Police
/clt