



Canadian National Fireworks Association  
PO Box 1238  
Aldergrove, BC  
V4W 2V1

Tel: 604-853-2255  
Toll Free: 1-855-652-CNFA (2632)  
Fax: 604-852-3469  
nationalfireworks.ca

March 16, 2023

Mayor Dan Carter  
City of Oshawa  
50 Centre St. S  
Oshawa, ON  
L1H 3Z7

Delivered electronically to: [clerks@oshawa.ca](mailto:clerks@oshawa.ca)

**Re: Oshawa Fireworks - Item: SF-23-01 and SF-23-13**

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of Council,

I am writing in follow up to my letter dated January 23, 2023 on item SF-23-01 and the city's decision to move forward with a report on fireworks. In the January 2023 letter, the CNFA – which is the national association for the fireworks industry in this country - committed to working with the City of Oshawa on its forthcoming report, including all staff, the Fire Chief and the wider community. The CNFA is disappointed that it was never engaged in the writing of the report with our January 2023 letter being placed on the March 20, 2023 committee meeting where a report on fireworks will be brought forward.

The CNFA wishes to reiterate its pledge and strong commitment to working with the City of Oshawa on the options it is considering as part of the March 20 report SF-23-13. As you may be aware, the CNFA advocates for our members in our mission to promote fair access and safety in the sale and use of fireworks through public education, advocacy with regulators as well as strong and engaged member compliance.

In the absence of any public consultation with the industry on fireworks in Oshawa, the CNFA has read the SF-23-13 public report and offers the following comments as it pertains to the four options presented for your consideration.

Option A – This option considers more enforcement and education and is supported by the CNFA. As detailed in our January 23, 2023 to Council, the CNFA stands ready to assist at no cost to Oshawa on our Vendor Certification and Employee Training Program, our Be a Good Neighbour Program similar to how we have worked with many municipalities across the country in requiring education as an additional tool for more enforcement and welcome the opportunity to work with officials in Oshawa in this regard. The estimated cost of this option at \$5,000 seems artificially low and can be enhanced at a cost of \$0 by working with the CNFA.

Option B – This option restricts fireworks to certain parks and not others. This option is not practical, nor enforceable and will pit neighbours against each other. It will lead to confusion and NIMBYism as residents of Oshawa question why are fireworks allowed in certain parks and not others. Put quite simply, this option will not work. Moreover, it is important that as legislators you understand that fireworks are not allowed in parks according to existing Federal Explosives Act regulations.

Additionally, this option is not feasible given the onerous requirement for a permit when using fireworks. Based on our experience across Canada, no one will come to the city before using consumer fireworks. This provision is not practical nor enforceable for the general public who will continue to use fireworks without provisions to get a permit with enforcement by your By-Law team being reactionary at best, arriving at the scene well after fireworks have been ignited.

Option C – This option is a ban of fireworks which will be impossible to enforce. Banning fireworks based on empirical evidence does not work, and I invite you to read more and understand why: <https://www.nationalfireworks.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Position-Paper-on-the-Banning-of-Fireworks.pdf>

Furthermore, the staff report before you estimates the cost of a ban at a mere \$5,000 and does not take into account the very heavy cost of enforcement across the city to implement. The report also estimates \$40,000 as the cost that Brampton spends on fireworks for Canada Day, but it negates the fact that the City of Brampton also proposes to use \$200,000 of taxpayer money for the use of fireworks community celebrations on another occasion: <https://www.insauga.com/brampton-diwali-event-looks-for-200-thousand-in-city-budget/>

Option D – This option focuses on public consultation including with the CNFA. As mentioned in our January 2023 letter to the city, we would welcome meaningful and robust public consultation on fireworks in the City of Oshawa.

In closing, it is important to state that the industry takes these matters around our industry very seriously and we work with our stakeholders to continuously improve our products, education, and awareness predicated around safety. We believe that 99% of the public using fireworks want to use them safely and with respect and in consideration of their neighbours. Where we all need to improve is getting the message to the consumer and this is a principal focus for the CNFA.

My thanks to Council for taking the time to address fireworks in Oshawa and our repeated ask is for staff to engage our industry. The CNFA is proud to have worked with countless municipalities across the country in requiring education as an additional tool for more enforcement and warmly appreciate the opportunity to work with Oshawa city officials.

Sincerely,



Aleem Kanji  
Chief Advocacy Officer

Canadian National Fireworks Association  
416-624-9478  
[aleem@c-nfa.org](mailto:aleem@c-nfa.org)  
NationalFireworks.ca

CC:

Members of Council

Tracy Adams, CAO

Derrick Clark, Fire Chief

## **SF-23-14**

From: Mark Phillips <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 3:35 PM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Fireworks

Just want to voice my concern about fireworks and to let you know that I oppose the ban of them. They are a Canadian tradition and the right to use them should be preserved.

Mark Phillips