

# INFO-25-111

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**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 11:47 PM

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**Subject:** Request to Ban Consumer Fireworks in Oshawa — Citing Public Safety, Animal Welfare & Municipal Precedents

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of Oshawa City Council,

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding the frequent and disruptive use of fireworks in Oshawa, which continues to affect residents, pets, and the environment — often well beyond the permitted hours. Although the current bylaw restricts fireworks use to specific holidays (Victoria Day, Canada Day, and Diwali) between dusk and 11:00 p.m., in reality, fireworks often continue past midnight, including tonight. These disturbances are not isolated and happen with increasing frequency throughout the year.

As a resident and pet owner, I experience firsthand the trauma that fireworks cause. My dogs shiver in fear, often hiding for hours due to the loud bangs and unpredictable noise. The impact is not limited to animals — it affects seniors, children, individuals with PTSD, people recovering from illness, and many others. The fact that these fireworks are often launched from private properties does not minimize the harm: their noise cannot be contained to one yard and becomes a nuisance for entire neighbourhoods.

Furthermore, enforcement of the current bylaw is virtually impossible. When fireworks go off, by the time the sound is heard and reported, the offenders are no longer visible or traceable, and the exact property cannot be identified. This renders the bylaw ineffective and leaves residents without meaningful protection.

## Other Municipalities Are Taking Action

Municipalities across Ontario and British Columbia have recognized these problems and taken decisive action:

- Woodstock, Ontario enacted a full ban on consumer fireworks starting January 2024, citing fire risk, injury, and negative effects on animals and the environment.
- Caledon, Ontario prohibits personal use and sale of fireworks, allowing only professional shows under strict permitting.
- Vancouver, BC banned consumer fireworks as of November 2020, allowing only licensed professionals with permits for major events.

- Surrey, Richmond, Kamloops, and Kelowna have also banned consumer fireworks.
- Squamish Nation prohibits all sale, use, and possession of fireworks on its lands, with daily fines starting at \$250.

These municipalities have prioritized public health, safety, and environmental protection, and it's time Oshawa followed suit.

### **What We Are Requesting**

We urge you to:

1. Ban the sale and personal use of consumer fireworks within Oshawa.
2. Allow only licensed, professionally operated displays with proper permits and safety oversight.
3. Increase public education about the impacts of fireworks and alternatives like laser light shows or silent fireworks.
4. Improve enforcement protocols, potentially including noise detection technology, anonymous tip lines, or fines for general neighbourhood disturbances.

This is not just about following rules. It's about showing leadership in protecting the mental health, safety, and quality of life of our community — and aligning with other forward-thinking Canadian municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration. I am available to provide further details or public support if needed.

Regards,  
On behalf of several of my neighbours  
Arsham Parsi  
< M.F.I.P.P.A. Sec 14(1) >