

CNCL-25-83

From: Ming Zhao <M.F.I.P.P.A 14(1) >

Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 7:30 AM

To: clerks <clerks@oshawa.ca>

Subject: Additional Comments Regarding Correspondence SF-25-52 (Fireworks By-law Review)

Dear Mayor Carter, Members of Council, and the City Clerk's Office,

I am writing to provide additional clarification related to my correspondence (SF-25-52) and delegation on November 10, 2025, regarding the direction to staff to prepare a report for Q2 2026.

First, I want to thank the Committee for receiving my submission and supporting a staff review. My goal has always been to contribute constructively to a fair, neutral, and workable municipal framework.

As staff prepare their analysis, I respectfully request that the upcoming report include evaluation of one additional policy pathway that has not yet been examined in previous City reviews (SF-23-13 and SF-23-38):

Option D — A Fairness-Based Framework (Two Pathways)

Option D(a): Equal Treatment Through Uniform Rules

- Maintain only statutory holidays (Victoria Day and Canada Day) as no-permit days.
- Remove cultural or religious exemptions to ensure complete neutrality.
- Allow all residents and cultural groups to celebrate equally through the same permit process.

Option D(b): Equal Access Through a Single High-Standard Permit System

- Remove automatic cultural exemptions.
- Replace them with one transparent, criteria-based permit pathway available to any cultural or community event.
- Ensures fairness, safety, and objectivity without favouring any group.

Rationale for Evaluating Option D Fairness and Equal Treatment

The City currently evaluates Options A, B, and C (enforcement, restrictions, and full prohibitions). No option in previous reports addresses a fairness-based model that removes cultural naming and treats all residents equally under a single standard.

Practicality and Clarity

A consistent permit system reduces confusion for both residents and enforcement staff by eliminating subjective or identity-based distinctions.

Alignment with Municipal Principles

A neutral, criteria-based framework aligns with the City's goals of safety, equity, and transparent by-law administration.

Community Impact and Enforcement Efficiency

A high-standard permit system focuses on safety, fire risk, environmental considerations, and mental health impacts—factors raised during my delegation.

Request

I respectfully ask that staff explicitly evaluate Option D, alongside the options already within scope, so that Council may consider a full range of fair and practical models when the Q2 2026 report is presented.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and service to the community.

Sincerely,

Fang Ming Zhao