



# Suzan Hall



City Councillor  
Ward 1 – North Etobicoke

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## MEMO

**Date:** January 22, 2009

**To:** Councillor Howard Moscoe  
Chair, Licensing and Standards Committee

**From:** Councillor Suzan Hall

**Re:** **Fireworks Bylaw Change - Diwali Celebrations**

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I am requesting that the Fireworks Bylaw be amended to allow fireworks to be sold for Diwali festivities along with Canada Day and Victoria Day.

This year, Diwali will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009 and on November 5<sup>th</sup> in 2010. Diwali is celebrated by the Hindu and Sikh communities.

Currently, temporary vendors can sell family fireworks only on Canada Day and the seven-day period before Canada Day and on Victoria Day and the seven-day period before Victoria Day.

Many South Asian businesses in north Etobicoke and across Toronto are placed at a disadvantage to their counterparts in Peel Region because they are not permitted to sell fireworks for Diwali. Gurdwaras and temples in Toronto are able to obtain special permits to put on a fireworks display during that time but they must go out of area to obtain the fireworks. It places the small business in Toronto at a financial disadvantage that needs to be corrected.

I am requesting support for the following motion:

That to assist individuals to purchase family fireworks from Temporary Fireworks Vendors, Temporary Lease Fireworks Vendors and Mobile Fireworks Vendors for Diwali celebrations in the City of Toronto, that the sale of family fireworks only on the day of the Diwali celebration and the seven-day period before the Diwali celebration be authorized at a cost as set out in the fireworks by-law.

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