

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM25.14	ACTION			Ward: All
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Requesting a Review of Chapter 466, Fireworks - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the General Government and Licensing Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, in consultation with relevant City divisions, to report to the General Government and Licensing Committee on the outcome of a review of Chapter 466, Fireworks, including a jurisdictional scan and consideration of increased education, enhanced environmental protections, and other regulation on fireworks sales and discharge.

Summary

The City has regulations in place for fireworks sales and discharge, under Chapter 466, Fireworks.

Fireworks vendors are required to obtain a fireworks vendor's permit, issued by Municipal Licensing and Standards. Family fireworks are regulated through permits, conditions, and inspections, and are enforced by Toronto Fire Services.

Without a permit, discharge of fireworks is only permitted on "designated holidays" (Victoria and Canada day), however, we are receiving more reports of people purchasing and discharging fireworks throughout the year. This is particularly problematic in waterfront parks with their abundance of wildlife, aquatic habitats, and in some areas with a dense residential population.

Many municipalities have taken steps toward stricter regulations around fireworks including additional regulation around environmental protection. For example, the sale and the use of fireworks will no longer be permitted in Vancouver as of November 1, 2020. There are currently at least two active fireworks petitions in Toronto.

This Motion seeks a review of Chapter 466, including but not limited to a jurisdictional scan, opportunities for increased education, potential for enhanced regulations in ecologically sensitive areas, and restrictions on fireworks sales both in Toronto and the Greater Toronto

Area, in advance of the 2021 warm weather seasons.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM25.14