

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM34.36	ACTION			Ward: 2, 3
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Request to Re-open Item EC21.10 Response to Increased Unpermitted Fireworks Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic - by Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*** This Motion is subject to a re-opening of Item EC21.10. A two-thirds vote is required to re-open that Item. If re-opened, the previous Council decision remains in force unless Council decides otherwise.*

Recommendations

Councillor Stephen Holyday, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, and the General Manager, Office of Emergency Management, in consultation with relevant City divisions to:
 - a. immediately ban the possession of fireworks in a City of Toronto park;
 - b. identify a funding source for Municipal Licensing and Standards By-law Officers to enforce fireworks regulations after midnight on the following dates: July 1 to July 4, 2021; July 30 to August 2, 2021; September 3 to September 6, 2021;
 - c. immediately apply to the Province of Ontario, and take any other steps required, to double fireworks-related set fines;
 - d. immediately install permanent No Fireworks signage in Marie Curtis Park, Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Humber Bay Park West, Humber Bay Park East,

Humber Bay Shores Park and any other parks with higher rates of fireworks non-compliance under the Parks By-law, in consultation with the local Councillor;

e. immediately launch an information campaign, including transit shelter and electronic billboard ads, to educate the public on the rules and reinforce that Victoria Day and Canada Day are the only two days that fireworks are allowed; and

g. explore the feasibility of introducing new City of Toronto fines under the noise by-law and report back in the third quarter of 2021 to the Economic and Community Development Committee.

Summary

This Motion has been prepared in consultation with Councillor Mark Grimes in response to a significant increase in illegal fireworks in Ward 3 and the City of Toronto as a whole during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its meeting held on October 27, 28 and 30, 2020, City Council adopted Councillor Grimes' Member Motion MM25.14, entitled "Requesting a Review of Chapter 466, Fireworks", directing the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, 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.

City Council adopted EC21.10, entitled "Response to Increased Unpermitted Fireworks Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic" on May 5 and 6, 2021, which included a "COVID-19 Unpermitted Fireworks Action Plan".

Reports of illegal fireworks taking place virtually every night since the May 24th long weekend, often until 3:00 a.m., have demonstrated that the COVID-19 Unpermitted Fireworks Action Plan is insufficient to manage the documented increase in fireworks in Toronto.

This Motion suggest enhanced measures, some to be implemented immediately and some to be considered further.

REQUIRES RE-OPENING

Economic and Community Development Committee Item EC21.10 (May 5 and 6, 2021 City Council meeting.)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion34.36