



ACCESS BARRIE MEMORANDUM

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TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: C. HARRIS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & CUSTOMER SERVICE

NOTED: R. JAMES-REID, GENERAL MANAGER ACCESS BARRIE
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: FIREWORKS CONSULTATION

DATE: February 28, 2024

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update Council on the Fireworks Consultation – Firework Restrictions in Residential Areas (Item for Discussion 8.2, January 31, 2024). The following motion was passed at Finance Committee:

That staff in Access Barrie in consultation with the Legislative and Court Services Department conduct public consultations to obtain feedback on the restriction of fireworks in residential areas to which up to \$5000.00 being allocated from the Council Strategic Priorities Reserve to enable the design of an online and phone poll engagement approach, and whereby staff will" report back to the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee with the results.

Staff have developed a series of questions to gain an understanding of the general awareness of the City's Fireworks By-law. Additionally, staff are looking to get public opinion on permitting fireworks on public property for community events hosted by the City and allowing them on private property during approved holidays.

Staff recommend an online consultation on Building Barrie (BuildingBarrie.ca) to engage the broader community and allow residents the opportunity to provide feedback via an online survey. A random phone poll, with a statistically valid sample of 1,000 residents, would also be conducted to help inform Council's decision. The proposed questions for the online platform and the telephone poll are below, noting that the telephone poll questions may be subject to modification based on the online engagement feedback.

The online engagement will take place between March 8, 2024, and March 29, 2024 and the telephone poll would occur the week of April 1, 2024. Staff will reach out to the Kinsmen Club to understand how potential changes to the By-law would impact the organization and planned community fundraising efforts.

Building Barrie Questions:

- Q1. Prior to this survey, were you aware that the City of Barrie has a Fireworks By-law?
Yes
No
- Q2. Have you or your family set off fireworks in Barrie on private property within the past five years?
(Choose any one option)
- Yes, I have set off fireworks.
 - No, but I have participated in fireworks set off by others (e.g. friends, neighbours)
 - No, I have not set off or participated in fireworks displays.



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Q3. On which holidays have you set off or participated in fireworks displays on private property within the past five years? Select all that apply.

- Victoria Day
- Canada Day
- New Year's Day
- Lunar New Year
- Diwali
- Other
- I have not set off or participated in fireworks displays on private property

Q4. Currently, within the City of Barrie fireworks are only allowed to be set off on private property on Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day, Lunar New Year and Diwali. Do you agree with this?
Yes
No

Q5: Would you expand the holidays you can issue fireworks on private property in Barrie without a permit, or would you reduce the number of holidays you can issue fireworks on private property?

REDUCE EXPAND

Select the holidays that you would like fireworks to be allowed in Barrie on private property.

- ☐ Victoria Day
- ☐ Canada Day
- ☐ New Year's Day
- ☐ Lunar New Year
- ☐ Diwali
- ☐ Other(s)

Q6: Do you think the City of Barrie should only allow publicly run fireworks displays? For example, the fireworks display the city puts on for Canada Day and Victoria Day over Kempenfelt Bay.

YES NO

If YES: What holidays should the city hold fireworks displays for the community.

- ☐ Victoria Day
- ☐ Canada Day
- ☐ New Year's Day
- ☐ Lunar New Year
- ☐ Diwali
- ☐ Other



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Q7: Enforcing Fireworks By-laws presents challenges to municipalities due to the nature of the activity; the discharge is usually of a short duration and may occur anywhere in the city, at any time. Do you think the city can properly enforce a Fireworks By-law?

YES NO

Comment Box

Q8: Do you think the City of Barrie should prohibit Fireworks completely in the city. No exceptions.
YES NO

If yes - Why do you think the City of Barrie should prohibit Fireworks?

- Garbage left
- Environmental Concerns
- Impacts to animals (wildlife, cats, dogs)
- Noise levels
- Other

Q9: Do you have any concerns or feedback about fireworks in the City of Barrie?

Comment Box

Random Phone Poll Questions (statistically valid sample):

Q1: The City of Barrie currently allows fireworks on private property for Victoria Day, Canada Day, New Year's Day, Lunar New Year and Diwali. Do you think the City should continue to allow fireworks on private property?

YES NO

Q2: Would you expand the holidays you can issue fireworks on private property in Barrie, or would you reduce the number of holidays you can issue fireworks on private property?

REDUCE EXPAND

Select the holidays that you would like fireworks to be allowed in Barrie on private property.

- Victoria Day
- Canada Day
- New Year's Day
- Lunar New Year
- Diwali
- Other (open ended)



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Q3: Do you think the City of Barrie should only allow publicly run fireworks displays? For example, the fireworks display the city puts on for Canada Day and Victoria Day over Kempenfelt Bay.

YES NO

If YES: What holidays should the city hold fireworks displays for the community.

- Victoria Day
- Canada Day
- New Year's Day
- Lunar New Year
- Diwali
- Other (open ended)

Q4: Do you think the City of Barrie should prohibit Fireworks completely in the city. No exceptions.
YES NO

If yes - Why do you think the City of Barrie should prohibit Fireworks?

- Garbage left
- Environmental Concerns
- Impacts to animals (wildlife, cats, dogs)
- Noise levels
- Other