
TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2005 August 05

FROM: FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: FIREWORKS

PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update on a proposed region ban on fireworks.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At the regular Council meeting held on 2005 July 11, council requested that the Fire Chief provide an update on the status of discussions related to development of a regional bylaw to ban the use of fireworks in lower mainland municipalities.

On June 8, 2005, I met with Mr. John Rielly of B.E.M. Fireworks to discuss a number of concerns, such as:

- misuse of fireworks
- noise nuisance
- bulk sales
- transient vendors
- excessive signage
- etc.

This meeting allowed me the opportunity of gaining a better understanding of how this industry works and to determine if this industry representative was prepared to work with the Fire Department in providing a safer and more pleasant Halloween experience for all family members.


Many GVRD municipalities have adopted a variety of restrictions but, to date, we have been unable to find common ground on this issue.

A number of neighbouring communities have decided to further restrict fireworks by endorsing the sale of fireworks in "family packs" only rather than imposing a total ban. (Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Port Moody)

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I have discussed this matter with City staff and believe that a bylaw amendment to further regulate fireworks is in order. Given the fireworks restrictions created in much of the GVRD and Burnaby's central location and transportation services (Skytrain), some controls are required to address the likelihood of suppliers, vendors and buyers viewing Burnaby as an open fireworks market.

Staff will be bringing forward for your consideration, in early September, amendments to the Burnaby Fire Services Bylaw to further restrict and regulate the sale of fireworks within the City.


J.A. (John) Stewart
FIRE CHIEF

JAS:ph

Copied to: Councillor N. Volkow