
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2005 September 16

FROM: FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: FIREWORKS

PURPOSE: To recommend an amendment to the Fire Services Bylaw relating to fireworks

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the amendment of Burnaby Fire Services Bylaw to restrict the sale of fireworks to Family Packs only.

REPORT

Under the direction of Council, the Fire Department was requested to investigate the possibility of developing a regional bylaw to prohibit the sale and use of fireworks in GVRD communities.

Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful at this time in finding an effective workable solution to this matter. We continue our discussions, but we must move forward in the best interest of the City while these deliberations continue.

There is no point in attempting banning the sale or discharging of fireworks while these products are readily available from neighbouring communities, First Nations Reservations and from various off shore locations.

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). A family pack is a package of fireworks containing not more than 30% roman candles and noisemakers. I believe this to be a reasonable first step.

To: City Manager

From: Fire Chief

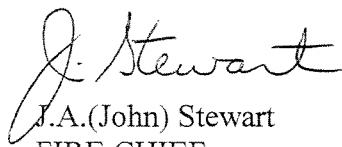
Re: Fireworks

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In the week preceding Halloween, fireworks are sold by two different types of businesses. The first are those businesses – typically retailers – who are established in the community, have a permanent location and where the sale of fireworks is a minor, temporary component of their principal retail sales. The other types of businesses typically are granted a business licence, move into a vacant space, focus solely on selling fireworks for the short period of time and then vacate the space, returning the following year seeking a temporary location in Burnaby.

This second type of business is of particular concern with respect to the sale of fireworks around Halloween. These temporary businesses do not have an interest in the community in the way a permanent business does and are difficult to hold accountable for their actions due to their transient nature. The concerns which arise in connection with these businesses include their undesirable appearance through often flagrant violation of the Burnaby Sign Bylaw, the general lower quality appearance of temporary businesses and the storage of fireworks in the parking lot. This type of temporary business can contribute to the general degradation of an area, socially and physically. More fundamental to the sale of works, as noted earlier in this report, concern is expressed regarding the possibility of Burnaby becoming a focus for the sale of fireworks due to other Greater Vancouver municipalities regulating their sale. It is expected that a large proportion of fireworks which would otherwise be sold in neighbouring municipalities in the past will be sold through these transient businesses. In light of the concerns discussed in this report and in light of regulatory steps taken in other Greater Vancouver municipalities, it is considered appropriate to explore limiting the number of location businesses principally engaged in the sale of fireworks may occupy.

In order to achieve this objective, the Fire Department has been in discussion with and will continue to work with the Planning Department and the Licensing Office regarding possible changes to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw, or Business Licence Bylaw, or both. Staff are exploring options and a further report will be forwarded to Council once the appropriate direction is determined.


J.A.(John) Stewart
FIRE CHIEF

JAS:sc

copy: Councillor Volkow