



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### POLICY REPORT PUBLIC SAFETY

Report Date: January 29, 2008  
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VanRIMS No.: 14-1000-01  
Meeting Date: February 14, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: General Manager\Fire Chief, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services

SUBJECT: Amendments to Vancouver Fire By-law No. 8191 Regarding Fireworks

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve in principle the proposed amendments to the Fire By-law as summarized in this report, such that the purchase and discharge of fireworks in the City be restricted to individuals who hold a valid certification from the Federal Government, Natural Resources Canada - Explosives Regulatory Division as a Display Fireworks Supervisor, and that the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks otherwise be banned.
- B. THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to bring forward the By-law amendments generally as shown in Appendix B to this report, and any consequential amendments required to any other by-laws.
- C. THAT Fire Prevention's 2009 permit revenue budget be adjusted by \$9,000, without offset subject to budget review, to reflect the estimated reduction to revenue as a result of the By-law amendments.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Fire and Rescue Services RECOMMENDS approval of A, B and C.

City Council has approved Fire Bylaw No. 8191 and subsequent amendments that govern fire safety standards in the City, and has been supportive of the notion that the Fire By-law contains the minimum standards of life and fire safety. Most recently, on April 18, 2000 (RTS # 01373), September 14, 2004 (RTS # 04412), and again on October 17, 2006 (Fire By-law Amendment), Council supported amendments to the By-law which further restricted the use of Family Fireworks.

## SUMMARY

This report is an update to the Council report on Fireworks dated July 4, 2006 (RTS # 06065), and submits identical recommendations. In July, 2006, Council did not support that report's recommendations, and instead requested that the elimination of fireworks that produce noise without a light show be investigated. Since that report and the subsequent implementation of changes to Family Fireworks sales on October 17, 2006 (elimination of "noise-makers"), as well as increased public education efforts, we have experienced two additional Halloween events. During Halloween of 2006 and 2007, Vancouver's experience with fire calls during the Halloween period has remained relatively consistent while problems caused by fireworks in surrounding municipalities that have banned Family Fireworks continue to show a downward trend. This report includes much of the information contained in the previous report for Council's information, as well as a discussion of new data and our experience.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS) contends that the misuse of Family Fireworks by untrained and uncertified users continues to be a risk. Although VFRS placed a number of public fireworks safety messages in local newspapers, and also focused on providing fireworks safety messages in our school programs, there were still complaints to the City relating to the use of fireworks before, during, and after last Halloween. We have been unable to accurately quantify the annual complaints made specifically about fireworks, but most reporting areas indicated that they remain quite consistent year after year.

This report again proposes that changes be made to Vancouver Fire Bylaw 8191 to ban the sale and unregulated use of Family Fireworks, and limit the use of fireworks to community display events under the supervision of a trained, certified, and permitted professional. These centralized displays can be monitored, controlled and policed much more effectively, and would provide a safe alternative as family-oriented community events.

The proposed amendments to the Fire By-law are shown in Appendix B.

## PURPOSE

This report resubmits an amendment of the City of Vancouver's Fire By-law to deter negligent or unlawful use of fireworks by banning the sale and use of "Family Fireworks", while maintaining provisions to encourage and allow organized firework displays by trained and certified professionals.

## BACKGROUND

In this report the terms "Consumer" and "Family" Fireworks are used interchangeably.

On September 14, 2004, Council approved several amendments to Fire By-law 8191 (RTS # 04412), which modified the allowable types of fireworks and the dates when these could be sold within the City of Vancouver. Those amendments did marginally improve our ability to enforce the By-law with respect to fireworks, however, there continues to be misuse of fireworks which result in injuries, fire damage, and complaints from the public.

The City of Vancouver is one of the last jurisdictions in the Lower Mainland that still allows family fireworks to be sold during the week before Halloween and discharged on Halloween. The map contained in Appendix A shows the status of family fireworks legislation within the Lower Mainland. The irresponsible use of family fireworks during the week before Halloween has been problematic throughout the City over the years, and makes it difficult in enforcing the Fire Bylaw in the following areas:

- a) Minors in possession of fireworks.
- b) Fireworks discharged other than on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- c) Roman Candles being misused or fireworks being modified.
- d) Fireworks being discharged without sufficient clearance from buildings, people, pets or combustible items.
- e) Identification, seizure, and subsequent storage and disposal of fireworks when they do not comply with the Fire Bylaw and are deemed unsafe.
- f) Enforcing the By-law (identifying illegal or dangerous use which is "masked" by the widespread use of currently allowed fireworks).
- g) The use of fireworks not approved by the Explosives Regulatory Division(ERD) of Natural Resources Canada which are purchased from unlicensed sources in BC and the USA. These unapproved fireworks are potentially quite dangerous.

The City receives complaints every year leading up to and during Halloween with respect to property damage, injuries and noise due to irresponsible behaviour associated with fireworks activity in their neighbourhood. The use of Family Fireworks has also been cited as the cause of increased calls concerning pets and stray animals. The Manager of the City Pound has previously stated that on Halloween they receive an increase in calls from people looking for their pets that have escaped their homes because of fireworks. The SPCA has also stated that throughout BC, they see a significant increase in calls during Halloween regarding escaped or injured pets. All of these problems related to Family Fireworks place an increased demand on many City departments and external agencies, specifically the emergency services; Police, Fire and the BC Ambulance Service.

Many Lower Mainland municipalities have either banned or restricted the use of Family Fireworks. The BC Fire Commissioner and the Greater Vancouver Fire Chief's Association have identified the need for consistent regulation across the region, and have recommended a complete ban or restrictions on use of fireworks. The Canadian Fire Chiefs' Association approved a resolution at its annual general meeting in 2005, and brought forward the following recommendation:

*"Natural Resources Canada should bring about a complete ban of Consumer Fireworks in Canada."*

The Lower Mainland Municipal Association voted on May 11, 2006 to ban fireworks across the region. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been lobbying the United States Government to ban the use of Consumer Fireworks since 1910. Their position is formally supported by the following prominent professional organizations.

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Firefighters
- International Association of Fire Marshals
- American Burn Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Emergency Physicians
- British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs (Nov 2006)

Lidia Kemeny, the Executive Director of Safe Start at BC Children's Hospital and the Director of Child Health Advocacy, has asked to include the following comment in this report,

*"Every year children and youth suffer injuries from the use of fireworks. As British Columbia municipalities are increasingly opting to restrict or ban the use of these devices, its time for Vancouver to benefit from the knowledge that such restrictions will result in significantly reduced fire related damage, improved safety and less noise complaints for all citizens of Vancouver. It's only a matter of time until a firework related incident will result in a terrible injury to a child in Vancouver. Now is the time to ban the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks in Vancouver."*

## DISCUSSION

Fireworks in Canada are regulated through the Explosives Act, which is administered by the Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD) of Natural Resources Canada. The ERD uses a testing protocol to determine the safety of fireworks, and their conformity with the manufacturer's specifications. All legal fireworks are listed by the Explosives Act as authorized explosives under classification F:

- F-1 Consumer Fireworks (formerly 7.2.1)
- F-2 Display Fireworks (formerly 7.2.2)

Federal and Provincial legislation permits local jurisdictions to further regulate the sale and discharge of fireworks. Currently, the City of Vancouver allows the sale of Family Fireworks to persons 19 years of age and older, during the period of October 25<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup>, in each calendar year.

"Display Fireworks" (usually much more powerful and spectacular in comparison to Family Fireworks) are used at supervised venues where an audience is invited, supervised and kept well away from the firing area. These events, such as the annual Celebration of Lights, are allowed under a permit from the local authority having jurisdiction. The sale, purchase and firing of Display fireworks can only be carried out by a Fireworks Supervisor with a valid certificate issued by the ERD. Any incidents of injury, fires, or complaints from area residences as a result of these displays are minimal and are not documented.

Display fireworks are considered more hazardous than Consumer fireworks, however, this does not mean that Consumer fireworks are without hazard. The ERD public information

acknowledges that Consumer fireworks are, in fact, powerful pyrotechnic articles and even the most benign of Consumer fireworks can burn as hot as 650° C (1200° F).

“Consumer Fireworks” (defined as “Family Fireworks” in our Fire By-law) are traditionally used around Halloween in Vancouver. These fireworks result in injuries, fires and complaints, and the majority of Canadians consider the control of fireworks to be an important public health and safety issue. This has prompted most GVRD municipalities to ban the sale of consumer fireworks entirely, consider a ban, or review their current bylaw. The current status of local family fireworks legislation is contained in Appendix A. It should be noted that the tradition of using fireworks on Halloween is not prevalent in eastern Canada or many parts of the US.

In 2005, the City of Vancouver experienced 34 fire incidents relating to fireworks and the dollar loss totalled \$7,500. The following year in 2006, saw 57 fires with a fire loss of \$150,000, due to the use/misuse of fireworks. In 2007 there were 40 fires with damage of \$79,700. Included in the 40 fires in 2007 were 2 vehicles, 7 structure fires (minor damage) plus dumpsters, mailboxes, portable toilet, tree, shrubs and outdoor areas.

It has been reported that the ban of family fireworks in surrounding municipalities has had a significant positive effect in reducing fires and damage around Halloween. In addition, surrounding municipalities have commented that instances of public disorder have also declined, and they credit the ban of fireworks for this reduction.

For example, in 2004 in Richmond before family fireworks were banned, there were 65 fire incidents, including 12 vehicle fires and 6 structural fires with damage estimated at \$2 million. The following year, 2005, when family fireworks were banned there were only 4 fire incidents (trash bins and a hedge) with damage estimated at \$3,000. This positive trend has continued. In 2006 there were 4 incidents in Richmond resulting in \$5,000 in damage. Richmond’s 2007 Halloween experience was similar with 5 incidents causing \$3,500 in damage.

Another local example of the potential positive effects of a fireworks ban is illustrated by Surrey’s experience. In 2004, when family fireworks were available, there were 55 fires related directly to Fireworks, with damage estimated at \$157,000. In 2007, after family fireworks had been banned, there were 22 fires related to fireworks, with damage estimated at \$30,000.

Although there were a number of incidents in 2007, Surrey’s Chief Fire Prevention Officer reported that Halloween has become a “near normal” night for fire calls, comparable to other holiday nights such as Thanksgiving. They have discontinued supplementing their Halloween night staff with an additional truck and crew.

Similar positive results were experienced in Victoria after their fireworks ban. In 2007 there were no fireworks related incidents on Halloween, and Police calls related to fireworks dropped by 80%.

Recently it appears that public support has grown for a ban of family fireworks. An online CKNW poll this past Halloween showed approximately sixty percent of respondents favoured a complete ban.

It is acknowledged that a ban of Consumer Fireworks will not completely eliminate problems associated with fireworks. This has been noted by some consumer fireworks wholesalers and manufacturers who would prefer to see greater education, restrictions, enhanced permitting and stricter enforcement to resolve issues involving misuse. However, the banning of Consumer fireworks would allow enforcement of all firecrackers and fireworks used during the Halloween period, by not allowing illegal use to be "masked" with currently legal use of fireworks. If any fireworks at all are allowed during Halloween, emergency services personnel (Police and Fire) cannot easily distinguish between legal and illegal use without physically checking each instance. Even then, it is very difficult for personnel to determine legality due to the large range of names and brands of fireworks as well as the difficulty in inspecting fireworks at night in uncontrolled situations. Since Halloween tends to be very busy with numerous calls for service, staff resources are unavailable to provide this level of enforcement.

When a previous report to Council was submitted in September 2006, Council decided not to implement an outright ban on Family Fireworks at that time. Instead, Council directed VF&RS to work towards banning noisier fireworks (producing noise with little or no light display), implementing enhanced public education, increasing enforcement, and asked for report back after Halloween, 2006. A By-law change was enacted which did attempt to eliminate the major "noise-making" fireworks. Public Education activities were increased, including a public education campaign through local newspapers. VF&RS then submitted a Report back on Halloween Consumer Fireworks on March 1, 2007 in which it was indicated that the experience of another Halloween night (2007) was required to fully implement and assess the results of our actions.

### **Vancouver's Halloween 2007 Experience**

Fourteen Fire Prevention Inspectors (including the Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention) patrolled areas throughout the City to observe fireworks use from 5 pm to midnight, and to enforce fireworks misuse as required. While our report is subjective, our observations indicated that 2006 and 2007 were quite similar in terms of noise & fireworks use. This is important to note as the by-law changes leading to the elimination of "noise only" Fireworks had been in place for those two years. In addition, in 2007 there were numerous public announcements through the print and radio media.

It should also be noted that in a January 2007 report to Council, Halloween 2006 did not seem any quieter than past Halloweens to the Inspectors who lived in the City. This was in spite of the fact that 2006 was the first year of the "noise only" Fireworks ban.

Public Education about the By-law and use of fireworks was effected through the use of newspaper advertisements in October 2007. Partial funding (\$4,000) for these advertisements was provided by Mystical Distributing, one of the major local suppliers of Consumer Fireworks.

We had hoped to coordinate teams of VF&RS and VPD members working together on Halloween night but due to staffing issues and call volumes, VPD was unable to dedicate staff directly to Fireworks enforcement.

Fire Prevention Inspectors visited all retailers in the City during the allowable sales period and found most retailers to be generally compliant with the regulations with only a few minor concerns dealt with on site.

Several other approaches were investigated, including requiring a performance bond for retailers. On the advice of Legal Services, this approach was not pursued. Also, an increase in the cost of the permit required to sell fireworks from \$75 to \$250 was explored, but was also not thought to be an appropriate approach.

Appendix B contains the proposed By-law amendments. These amendments include changes which will make it illegal to buy, sell or use Family\Consumer Fireworks in Vancouver. The changes will allow public displays of fireworks under controlled conditions with a required "Display Permit". Vancouver Fire and Rescue will support and facilitate these types of controlled events.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Over the past several years, as many as 120 permits are issued by Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, to sell fireworks at a cost of \$75.00 per permit. The cost of the proposed by-law amendment is therefore estimated to be \$9,000 and the permit revenue budget should be adjusted accordingly starting in 2009, subject to budget review. It should be noted that the revenue associated with fireworks permits has not recovered all the cost of staff time necessary to inspect premises selling fireworks, respond to fireworks related emergency calls, and staff overtime at Halloween.

### **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

Prohibiting the purchase, possession, and discharge of Consumer Fireworks would alleviate the need to monitor, seize and store fireworks and reduce the numbers of emergency responses. This will also reduce the number of potentially hazardous situations which could be faced by Fire Inspectors attempting to enforce the By-law.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Fireworks that are currently sold in "Family Packs," or pre-packaged firework assortments, also include fireworks that when crushed or pounded will explode and are frequently modified by young consumers by wrapping several together in electrical tape, to create a multiple detonation. The noise associated with these types of fireworks contributes to noise pollution, and also localized air pollution from the emissions given off following the blast.

### **SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Prohibiting residential family fireworks displays will continue be of concern to some residents as this activity has become a traditional event. However, these concerns must be balanced against the rights of citizens to be undisturbed by the excessive noise and the safety issues that result from misuse of fireworks in their neighbourhoods. These concerns could be offset by facilitating and encouraging larger community event fireworks displays under safe and controlled conditions. The By-law changes in this report would still allow community fireworks displays. Richmond has had community associations involved with six community based professional Fire Works displays. These types of displays were presented to Richmond City Council as "creating a safe alternative". They have been very successful and well received.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The timing of the current recommendation to implement a ban on selling and discharging consumer fireworks would be implemented quickly. The implementation of these changes would allow sufficient lead time so that community groups could organize community fireworks displays for next Halloween if desired.

## **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

All of the fireworks wholesalers that can be identified in the region have been contacted and informed about the contents of this report, and will be given the opportunity to speak to Committee. In addition, other interested parties including members of the medical profession and the VPD have been notified of the report.

The release of information regarding a fireworks ban could be effectively communicated through the media and public education, stressing public safety and the overall trend by other municipalities and professional groups to ban consumer fireworks.

## **VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT POSITION**

Attached as Appendix C.

## **CONCLUSION**

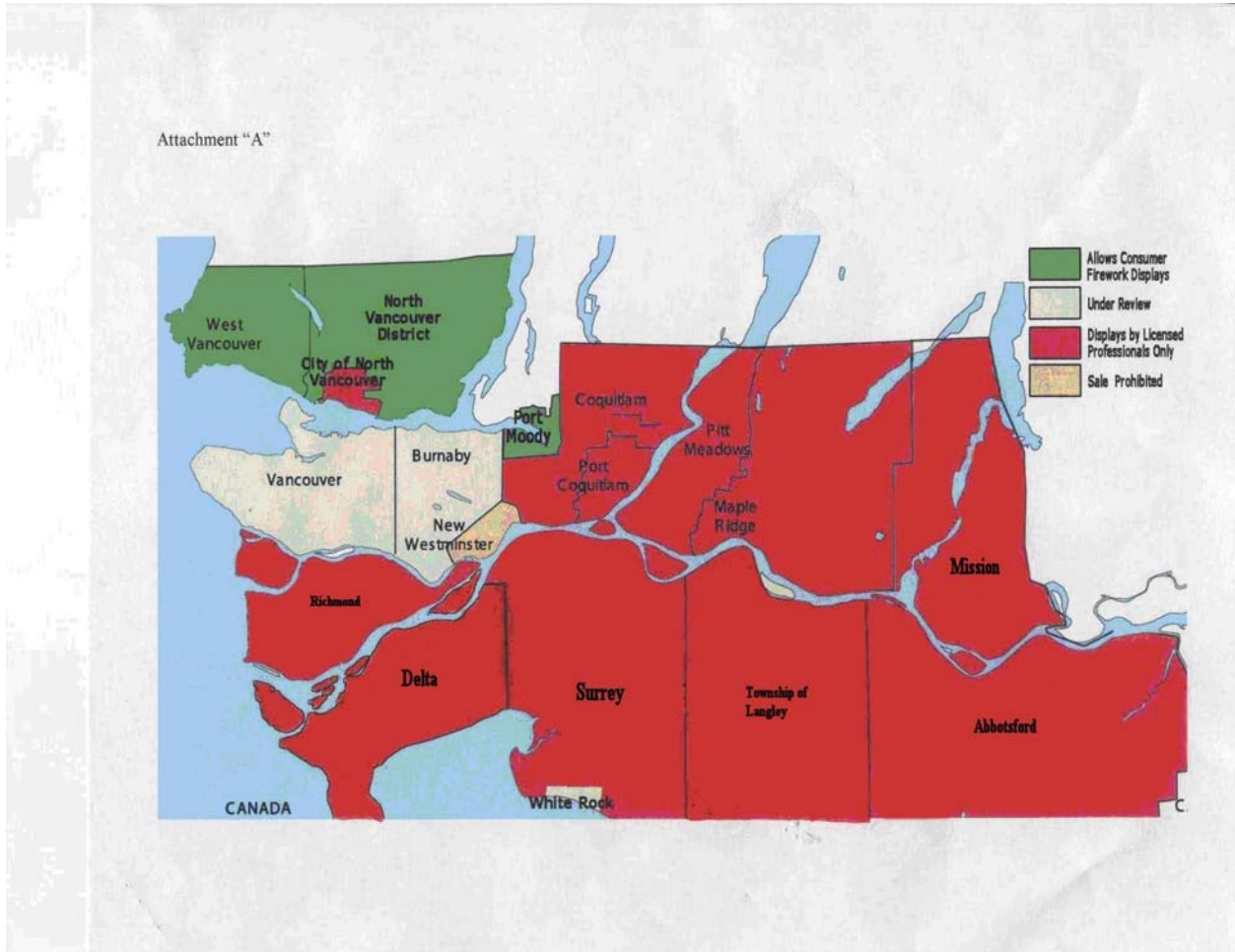
The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend organized outdoor displays supervised and operated by properly trained and licensed technicians and permitted and monitored by the local jurisdiction. Most residential lots are not large enough to meet the safe clearance requirements recommended by the BC Fire Commissioner, so these community displays would likely only occur in large public spaces. Fireworks can turn a joyful celebration into a hazardous emergency when children or adults are injured while using fireworks or being in close proximity to fireworks used by untrained individuals. Taking dangerous fireworks out of the untrained hands of consumers while permitting safe, approved public displays by certified supervisors would continue to allow for fireworks displays within the city, without subjecting citizens to danger. This proposal is in keeping with the nature of dialogue and action that is occurring in most communities within the Lower Mainland.

Another factor of significance is the relationship between the availability of Fireworks and other fire incidents on Halloween. Other municipalities have commented that when they have banned family Fireworks they have also seen a decrease in other deliberately set fires on Halloween.

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**APPENDIX A:  
Map Showing the Current Status of Family Fireworks Legislation in the Lower Mainland**



## APPENDIX B. New Revisions, Additions or Deletions to the Fire By-law

BY-LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A By-law to amend Fire By-law No. 8191  
regarding fireworks

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This By-law amends the indicated provisions and schedules of the Fire By-law.
2. In Article 1.2.1.2., Council:
  - (a) repeals the definition of "Bottle rocket";
  - (b) after the definition of "*Dangerous goods*", adds:

*"Discharge fireworks or Discharge of fireworks means to discharge, ignite, explode, set off, or detonate fireworks."*
  - (c) after the definition of "Display fireworks", adds:

*"Display permit means a permit issued under Sentence 5.8.2.1.(6).*

*Display permit holder means a person who holds a valid and current display permit."*
  - (d) repeals the definition of "*Family fireworks*";
  - (e) repeals the definition of "*Family pack*";
  - (f) repeals the definition of "*Firecracker*";
  - (g) strikes out "*family fireworks* and" from the definition of "*Fireworks*"; and
  - (h) repeals the definition of "*Roman candle*".
3. Council repeals Articles 5.8.2.1., 5.8.2.2., 5.8.2.3., and 5.8.2.4., and substitutes:

**"5.8.2.1. General**

  - 1) A person must not offer for sale, sell, or dispose of *fireworks* to any person except a *display permit holder*.
  - 2) A person who sells or disposes of *fireworks* to a *display permit holder* must
    - a) at the time of the sale or disposition, examine the *display permit holder's display permit* to ensure that it is current,

- b) require the *display permit holder* to produce two pieces of identification that corroborate the name of the *display permit holder* on the *display permit*, and
  - c) comply with all conditions on the *display permit* that apply to the sale or disposition of *fireworks*.
- 3) A person must not possess or discharge *fireworks* except if that person is a *display permit holder*, and complies with the requirements of this By-law and all conditions on the *display permit*.
- 4) A person who is a *fireworks supervisor* and at least 19 years of age may apply to the *Fire Chief* for a *display permit* to *discharge fireworks*, and must submit
- a) a completed *display permit* application in the form prescribed by the *Fire Chief*,
  - b) a release and indemnity in the form prescribed by the Director of Legal Services for the city,
  - c) a certificate of insurance showing evidence that the applicant for the *display permit* has comprehensive general liability insurance which
    - (i) has a coverage limit of not less than \$5,000,000.00 per occurrence,
    - (ii) includes the city as an additional named insured, and
    - (iii) has a deductible of not more than \$5,000.00,
  - d) proof that Natural Resources Canada has certified the applicant as a *fireworks supervisor*, and that the certification is current,
  - e) if the discharge of *fireworks* under the *display permit* is to occur on property not owned by the applicant, an authorization signed by the property owner or property owner's agent, and
  - f) such other information or material as this By-law or the *Fire Chief* may require.
- 5) If
- a) the applicant fails to comply with the requirements of Sentence (4),
  - b) the applicant provides false or inaccurate information on the application for the *display permit*,
  - c) the *Fire Chief* does not approve the proposed location for the *discharge of fireworks*, or
  - d) this By-law otherwise authorizes the *Fire Chief* to refuse to issue a *permit*, the *Fire Chief* may refuse to issue the *display permit* applied for under Sentence (4).

- 6) The *Fire Chief* may issue a *display permit*, and may impose conditions on that *display permit* including the following
- a) the location at which the *discharge of fireworks* under the *display permit* may take place,
  - b) the days and times the discharge of fireworks may occur at that location,
  - c) the fire safety precautions the *display permit holder* must take in connection with the *discharge of fireworks* under the *display permit*, and
  - d) safe storage of the *fireworks* that the *display permit holder* intends to *discharge* under the *display permit*.
- 7) If
- a) a *display permit holder* violates any applicable law or any condition of the *display permit*,
  - b) a *display permit holder* acts in such a manner as to endanger property or public safety,
  - c) environmental or weather conditions are such that the *discharge of fireworks* under the *display permit* would endanger property or public safety, or
  - d) this By-law otherwise authorizes the *Fire Chief* to revoke a *permit*,
- the *Fire Chief* may revoke the *display permit*.
- 8) A *display permit* is
- a) valid only for the *discharge of fireworks* at the location and during the days and times specified in the *display permit*, and
  - b) not transferable.
- 9) Without limiting the generality of this Article 5.8.2.1., a person must not
- a) point or direct *fireworks* at any person, animal, *building*, or motor vehicle where such *fireworks* are in the process of projecting or discharging a charge or pyrotechnical effect more than 1 m, or
  - b) *discharge fireworks* in such a manner as may endanger any person or property or cause a nuisance to any person or property.
- 10) If a person is holding *fireworks* in violation of this By-law, any member of the Fire Department or Police Department may seize and dispose of such *fireworks*, and the city is not liable to pay any compensation to such person for such *fireworks*."

4. From Schedule A-1, Council repeals:

Selling Fireworks ( Annual Permit)	75.00		75.00
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5. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this            day of            ,  
2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

#### EXPLANATION

#### Fire By-law amending by-law re fireworks

The attached by-law will implement Council's resolution of February 14, 2008 to amend the Fire By-law to regulate fireworks and restrict their use to display fireworks.

Director of Legal Services  
February 14, 2008

## APPENDIX C. Vancouver Police Department Position

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has reviewed the report to council by the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS). The VPD supported the VFRS's original recommendation that restricted the purchase and discharge of consumer fireworks in the City of Vancouver to individuals who hold a valid certification from the Federal Government, Natural Resources Canada - Explosives Regulatory Division as a Display Fireworks Supervisor, and that the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks otherwise be banned. The VPD has noted that the following qualified and professional stakeholders support a ban on the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks.

- The BC Fire Commissioner
- The Greater Vancouver Fire Chief's Association
- The Canadian Fire Chiefs' Association
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Firefighters
- International Association of Fire Marshals
- American Burn Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Emergency Physicians

In addition, the Lower Mainland Municipal Association voted on May 11, 2006 to ban fireworks across the region and the British Columbia Association of Police Chiefs (Nov 2006) also supports a fireworks ban. Finally, the Executive Director of Safe Start at BC Children's Hospital and the Director of Child Health Advocacy, Lidia Kemeny, supports a fireworks ban citing the injuries suffered by youth and children annually due to the misuse of fireworks. The VPD also notes that Vancouver is one of the last jurisdictions in the Lower Mainland that still allows family fireworks to be sold during the week before Halloween and discharged on Halloween. Significantly, the large local municipalities of Richmond and Surrey, as well as the City of Victoria, recorded reductions in fire calls on Halloween after the banning of consumer fireworks.

The VPD's primary concern is public safety with a more specific interest in protecting children and youth from the injuries arising from unfortunate firework related incidents. In addition, fireworks represent a source of public disorder including unfounded shots fired calls, noise complaints, disturbances, mischief, and of course, fire calls where the VPD may assist the VFRS with fire investigations, as well as traffic and pedestrian control at fire scenes as needed. In addition, a ban of consumer fireworks will make enforcement more straight forward since there will no longer be a need to distinguish between the various types and brands of fireworks. Halloween will likely continue to be an extraordinarily busy night for the VPD but a fireworks ban will likely assist in reducing the call load as well as enhancing the safety of the public, particularly children and youth. Therefore, the VPD support the VFRS's recommendation to restrict the purchase and discharge of consumer fireworks in the City of Vancouver to individuals who hold a valid certification from the Federal Government, Natural Resources Canada - Explosives Regulatory Division as a Display Fireworks Supervisor, and that the sale, purchase and discharge of fireworks otherwise be banned.