

# 2025 Fireworks Licensing and Use By-Law Review

General Committee Deputation

October 1, 2025

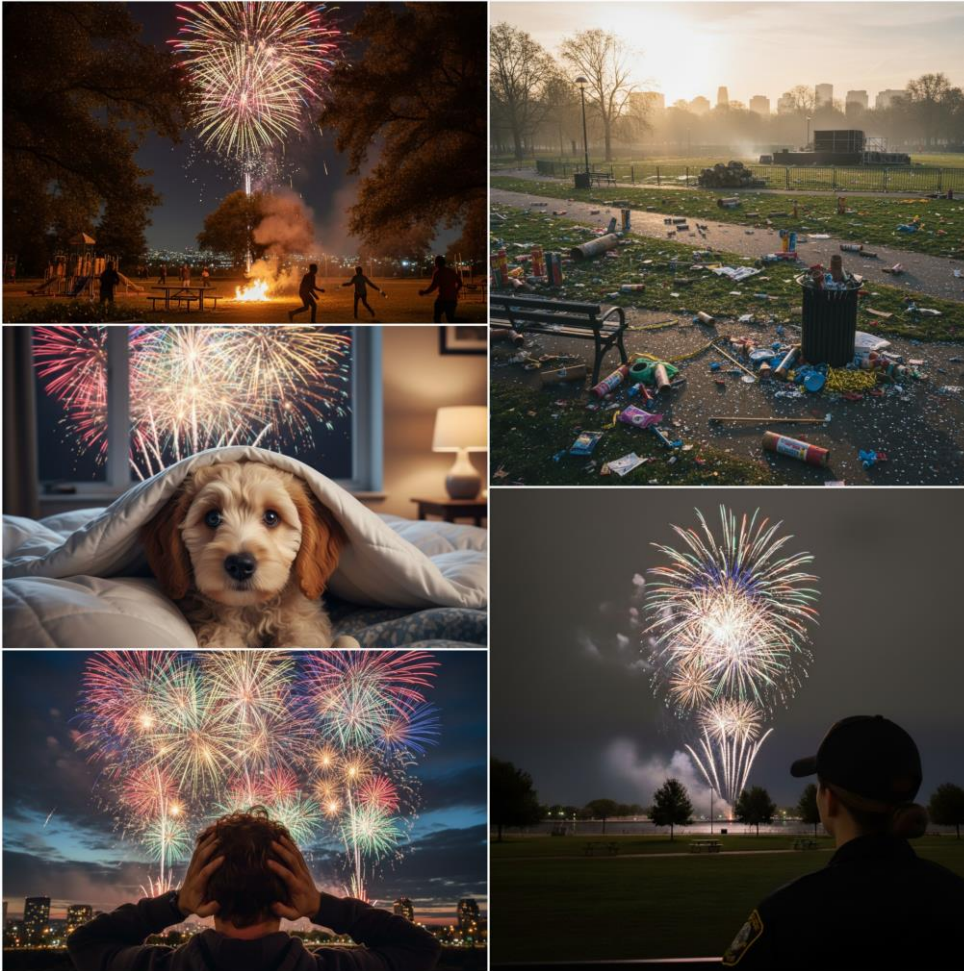
Enforcement Division



# Background & Context

- In May 2025, staff presented the Fireworks By-law Review Report, which included:
  - Complaint and enforcement data
  - Results from a public survey of 3,500+ contributors
  - Stakeholder consultations
  - A jurisdictional scan of comparable municipalities
- Three options were presented for Council's consideration:
  1. Maintain the Status Quo for Permitted Days
  2. Additional Restrictions
  3. Full Prohibition
- This report builds on the May 2025 report work with further research and analysis, **whereby staff are recommending a full prohibition of consumer fireworks, effective January 2, 2026**

# Impacts of Fireworks Use



Community Impacts

Enforcement Challenges

Environmental Considerations

Property Damage

Safety Risks

# Option 1: Full Prohibition (Recommended)

## Key Components

- Complete prohibition on the sale, distribution, possession, and use of consumer fireworks
- Low-hazard novelty devices permitted (e.g., sparklers)
- Permits limited to professional display fireworks

## Benefits

- ✓ One clear rule
- ✓ Enhances community well-being
- ✓ Long-term savings
- ✓ Improves public-safety
- ✓ Ensures regional alignment
- ✓ Supports safer alternatives

## Limitations

- ✗ Persistent non-compliance
- ✗ Initial increase in complaints during transition
- ✗ Changes to long-standing traditions
- ✗ Enforcement and education demands remain high in early years

# Option 2: Additional Restrictions

## Key Components

- Consumer fireworks permitted on five designated holidays only
- Shorter use hours: 8 - 10 p.m. on Lunar New Year, Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali; 11 p.m. – 1 a.m. on New Year's Eve
- Sales restricted to the 10 days leading up to each holidays (not including the actual date of the specific holiday)
- Prohibit specific types of fireworks (e.g., Roman Candles)
- Vendors required to maintain and submit an inventory and sales registry

## Benefits

- ✓ Reduces frequency and duration of fireworks use
- ✓ Removes high-risk products (e.g., Roman Candles)
- ✓ Sales data helps inform enforcement and policy decisions

## Limitations

- ✗ More complex rules – harder for residents to follow, harder to enforce
- ✗ Compliance with existing rules already inconsistent
- ✗ May not achieve long-term behaviour change
- ✗ Enforcement and education demands remain high

# Options at a Glance

Criteria	Option 1: Full Prohibition	Option 2: Additional Restrictions
<b>Clarity &amp; Ease of Compliance</b>	✓ Single, clear rule: No fireworks	✗ Multiple rules and time limits; higher chance of confusion
<b>Public Safety</b>	✓ Risks likely reduced in the long-term	! Risks likely to persist
<b>Behavior Change</b>	✓ Increased compliance in the long-term; promotes alternative and safer ways to celebrate	✗ Limited impact
<b>Enforcement</b>	✓ Simplified and more effective	✗ Layered compliance rules
<b>Costs</b>	✓ Lower long-term costs	✗ Ongoing monitoring, enforcement and public education costs
<b>Regional Fit</b>	✓ Aligns with nearby municipalities	! Partially aligns with nearby municipalities

# Approach for Both Options: Enforcement and Public Education

## Enforcement

- Increase proactive and reactive enforcement, focusing on hotspots
- Enhance collaboration for operational details (with PRP + MFES)
- Increase and add administrative penalties including Part I charges

## Public Education and Community Outreach

- Raise awareness of the City's Fireworks By-law, impacts of fireworks on the community and penalties for violations
- Use culturally aware communications, engagement and outreach activities known to strengthen local relationships and foster community-led solutions
- Change behaviour over time to help reduce reliance on enforcement

# Communications and Marketing Approach

## Full Prohibition

### Broad awareness and education

- Year-round campaign which includes a bigger push ahead of the five major holidays when fireworks were previously allowed without a permit
- Messaging reminder:
  - Fireworks are not permitted
  - Provide alternate ways to celebrate
  - Focus on positive impacts to the environment and resident safety

## Additional Restrictions

### Broad education and tailored messaging (two-pronged approach)

- Year-round campaign
  - Messaging about safety, alternate ways to celebrate and reminders of the impacts of fireworks to our environment, animals, noise and neighbours
- Operational campaigns (two weeks ahead of five major holidays)
  - Messaging about the *what*, *where*, and *when* for permitted fireworks

# Examples of Creatives



**Full Prohibition**

## Additional Restrictions



# Conclusion

## Staff Recommendation: Full Prohibition

### Rationale for Full Prohibition

- Most effective and sustainable solution for public safety
- Provides a clear, simple rule for residents
- More enforceable and consistent in application
- Aligns Mississauga with neighbouring municipalities
- Prevents Mississauga from becoming a regional fireworks hub
- Expected to reduce safety risks, enforcement pressures, and costs in the long-term
- Encourages safer, alternative celebrations

### Supporting Measures Across Both Options

- Enhanced enforcement capacity
- Expanded public education, including culturally aware outreach
- Increased fines and penalties
- Modernized Fireworks By-law (housekeeping amendments)

**For both options, staff recommend that by-law amendments take effect on January 2, 2026**

**Thank You**

# House Keeping Amendments



## Summary of Amendments

- Regulate special effect pyrotechnics and simulation devices
- Clarify public vs private displays
- Define novelty devices
- Restrict fireworks use by location
- Require stricter adherence to permit conditions

# Costing to Host a Fireworks Display

- Professionally conducted
- Approximately **\$90,800** per 10-minute show



Reduces safety risks, noise complaints and property damage from individual fireworks use

Provides a safe outlet for residents to celebrate

Supports long-term shift towards alternate and safer ways to celebrate

# Two-Pronged Public Education Strategy and Cost Estimates

