

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: March 2, 2026</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Raj Sheth, P.Eng, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: March 25, 2026</p>

Subject

Fireworks Administrative Penalties

Recommendation

1. That the introduction of new, increased and escalating Administrative Penalty System penalties outlined in Appendix 1 of the Corporate Report dated March 2, 2026, entitled "Fireworks Administrative Penalties", from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That Licensing Administrative Penalty By-law 0135-2014, as amended, be further amended, effective May 1, 2026, to designate Golf Course By-law 0188-2005, as amended, Marina By-law 0187-2005, as amended, and Municipal Cemeteries By-law 0189-2005 under its Administrative Penalty System framework.
3. That Licensing Administrative Penalty By-law 0135-2014, as amended, be further amended, effective May 1, 2026, to introduce new, increased and escalating penalty amounts for certain contraventions of the following by-laws, as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Corporate Report:
 - a. Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law 0182-2023, as amended
 - b. Golf Course By-law 0188-2005, as amended
 - c. Marina By-law 0187-2005, as amended
 - d. Municipal Cemeteries By-law 0189-2005, as amended
 - e. Parks By-law 0197-2020, as amended.
4. That Parks By-law 0197-2020 as amended, Golf Course By-law 0188-2005 as amended, Marina By-law 0187-2005 as amended, and Municipal Cemeteries By-law 0189-2005, as amended, be further amended to revise the definition of "Fireworks" so that it is consistent with and references the definition contained in the Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law 0182-2023, as amended.
5. That Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law 0182-2023, as amended, be further amended to prohibit individuals from leaving behind debris or casings after setting off fireworks.

6. That Marina By-law 0187-2005, as amended, be further amended to prohibit the possession and/or use of fireworks in a marina.
7. That all necessary by-laws be enacted.

Executive Summary

- Current penalties and enforcement mechanisms for fireworks-related contraventions are not effective deterrents, limiting the City's ability to achieve sustained compliance. As identified in the 2025 Fireworks By-law Review – Updated Report, reliance on *Provincial Offences Act* enforcement involves higher evidentiary requirements and lengthy legal processes, limiting timely and effective enforcement.
- To address these limitations, staff recommend introducing new fireworks-related contraventions under the Administrative Penalty System (APS) and increasing penalty amounts. These penalties enables more immediate, predictable, and proportionate consequences, encouraging compliance, improving operational efficiency, and reducing reliance on court-based processes.
- The proposed penalty structure applies escalating administrative penalties to fireworks sales and fireworks-related contraventions in parks, where non-compliance is commercially motivated or more likely to persist. In contrast, fireworks use-related contraventions are subject to a single penalty amount, reflecting the immediate public safety risks associated with misuse.
- This report fulfills Enforcement's October 2025 commitment to return to Council with enhanced enforcement measures in support of the amended Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law 0182-2023, which came into force on January 2, 2026.

Background

In December 2025, Council approved more restrictive amendments to the Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law 0182-2023 (Fireworks By-law) in response to ongoing community concerns related to public safety, injuries, noise and property damage. These amendments came into force on January 2, 2026, and were intended to increase regulatory clarity and strengthen Enforcement's ability to manage fireworks-related contraventions and impacts.

The 2025 Fireworks By-law review identified persistent enforcement challenges under the existing framework, including the limitations of Provincial Offences Act (POA) based enforcement. The review highlighted that fireworks use is often brief, dispersed, and time-sensitive, reducing the effectiveness of court-based processes in achieving timely and consistent compliance.

Council direction and public engagement findings supported the need for more proportionate, flexible, and timely enforcement tools to reinforce the amended Fireworks By-law and

encourage long-term behaviour change. As a result, staff committed to returning to Council with enhanced enforcement measures, including the introduction of APS penalties.

This report fulfills Enforcement's commitment to Council by advancing proposed APS amendments across multiple by-laws to address fireworks-related contraventions consistently - across regulated businesses, public spaces, and locations with persistent non-compliance.

Present Status

Fireworks-related enforcement remains resource-intensive and largely reactive, with complaint volumes increasing during designated holidays. Current penalties are insufficient to deter non-compliance, including repeat contraventions, and enforcement officers continue to face evidentiary and procedural barriers to achieving consistent and sustained outcomes.

The City's APS is currently used across a range of by-laws and is a proven effective tool in promoting compliance while reducing reliance on court proceedings. Expanding APS to fireworks-related contraventions provides an opportunity to strengthen enforcement outcomes.

Comments

Strengthening Enforcement Tools Through APS

The 2025 Fireworks By-law Review – Updated Report identified enforcement limitations as a central challenge, noting complex rules, reliance on POA enforcement, and delayed enforcement outcomes as factors undermining compliance, particularly during permitted holidays when fireworks are readily available.

Introducing APS directly addresses these challenges by enabling penalties to be issued at the point of contravention. This approach reduces investigative burden, provides immediate financial consequences for non-compliances, and allows enforcement resources to be deployed more strategically.

To support the regulatory intent of the amended Fireworks By-law, staff recommend introducing fireworks-specific administrative penalties. These measures provide a streamlined, flexible and efficient enforcement mechanism to promote -compliance across the City.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Licensing Administrative Penalty By-law 0135-2014, as amended, be further amended to designate the following by-laws and introduce administrative penalties, as outlined in Appendix 1:

- Golf Course By-law 0187-2005, as amended
- Marina By-law 0187-2005, as amended
- Municipal Cemeteries By-law 0189-2005

As part of this approach, Marina By-law 0187-2005 will be amended to prohibit the possession and/or use of fireworks within a marina. The Fireworks By-law will also be amended to prohibit leaving behind debris or casings following the discharge of fireworks. Given the nuisance, environmental impacts, fire risk and increased service requests for cleanup associated with debris, a distinct administrative penalty amount is recommended to address this behaviour proportionately and separately from higher-risk fireworks use-related contraventions.

Housekeeping amendments will also be made to the Golf Course, Marina, and Municipal Cemeteries and Parks by-laws to introduce consistent definitions and references to the Fireworks, improving clarity and enforcement consistency

Rationale

Staff recommend introducing and expanding of fireworks-specific APS penalties as a necessary and complementary enforcement tool to the regulatory amendments approved by Council. The proposed penalty framework, ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 (see Appendix 1), reflects the nature, frequency, and risk of fireworks-related behaviours:

- Escalating penalties are recommended for fireworks sales and fireworks contraventions in parks, where non-compliance is commercially motivated or likely to persist. Progressive penalties reinforce compliance expectations while ensuring that repeat offenders face increasing consequences.
- A single set penalty amount is proposed for fireworks-use contraventions, reflecting the immediate risk to public safety and property and the strain on emergency response resources. Regardless of whether it is a first or subsequent occurrence, a fixed, high penalty provides a clear and immediate deterrent.
- A separate penalty amount, on the lower end, is proposed for failing to clean up fireworks debris or casings. This recognizes debris as a post-event compliance issue (rather than misuse), but with significant impacts to neighbourhoods, parks, and City resources.

This approach ensures penalties are proportionate, risk-based and aligned with both public safety risk and enforcement realities.

The introduction of APS fireworks-related penalties is recommended for the following reasons:

- **Promote Compliance:** The absence of timely consequences, combined with lengthy court processes, limits the deterrent effect of current penalties. APS enables quicker, more predictable enforcement outcomes that are more likely to influence behaviour and discourage repeat contraventions.
- **Operational Efficiency:** APS is a more efficient enforcement tool as it reduces dependence on court proceedings. This allows Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers to respond more effectively, improves resolution timelines, and reduces administrative and legal burdens associated with POA prosecutions.
- **Proportional and Risk-Based Penalties:** The proposed penalty structure aligns penalties with the level of risk posed by different fireworks-related contraventions.

Aligning penalties to the seriousness of the contravention ensures penalties are proportionate.

- **Alignment with Council-Approved Amendments:** The revised Fireworks By-law includes tighter restrictions and additional clarity. Administrative penalties provide the necessary enforcement mechanism to support these changes and ensure consistent application across the City.
- **Consistency with Municipal Best Practices:** The use of APS is consistent with enforcement frameworks that have been successfully implemented across other City by-laws. Expanding APS to fireworks-related contraventions strengthens enforcement capability to encourage compliance while maintaining flexibility. Note that existing POA provisions will remain in place to preserve enforcement flexibility where court proceedings are appropriate.

These factors support the introduction of APS penalties as a necessary and appropriate enforcement tool to modernize the City's approach to regulating fireworks use.

Implementation

Staff recommend that the expansion of APS for fireworks-related contraventions take effect on May 1, 2026, following Council approval of the necessary by-law amendments. This timeline allows for required system and 311 knowledge base updates, staff readiness, and integration into the public education and awareness efforts supporting the amended Fireworks Licensing and Use By-law.

By bringing by-law amendments related to definitions and new fireworks-related contraventions into force upon Council approval, and implementing APS penalties on May 1, 2026, the City reinforces its commitment to strengthening compliance through clear regulations, effective enforcement tools, and informed public awareness.

Financial Impact

Implementing higher fines and introducing administrative penalties is expected to improve cost recovery and reduce reliance on resource-intensive POA proceedings. The shift toward APS will support more efficient enforcement by reducing court involvement, shortening case resolution timelines and reducing administrative and legal burdens associated with POA prosecutions.

While initial effort will be required for system configuration, staff training, and communications, these activities are expected to be managed within existing resources in the 2026 budget and offset by operational efficiencies and reduced court activity. Improved compliance is anticipated to further reduce enforcement demand, contributing to a more sustainable enforcement model. The financial and operational impacts of these changes will be monitored and reviewed in 2026. Any adjustments identified through this review will be considered as part of the City's 2027 business plan and budget process.

Conclusion

The proposed APS amendments modernize the City's approach to fireworks enforcement by introducing clearer, stronger, and more effective penalty tools. Escalating penalties for firework sales and fireworks-related contraventions in parks address commercially motivated or persistent non-compliance, while a single penalty for fireworks-use contraventions reflects the immediate public safety risks associated with misuse. Separate treatment of debris-related contraventions ensures proportionality.

Collectively, these measures promote compliance, improve enforcement efficiency, and support a balanced, risk-based enforcement framework aligned with Council direction and municipal best practices, while reducing reliance on court-based enforcement over time.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Licensing Administrative Penalty By-law 0135-2014 Amendments



Raj Sheth, P.Eng, Commissioner of Community Services

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