



SUBJECT: Expand firework permissions to additional religious and cultural events

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Office of the Mayor

Report Number: MO-16-19

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 110-04-01

Date to Committee: October 7, 2019

Date to Council: October 28, 2019

Recommendation:

Direct the Director of City Building and the Fire Chief to review related bylaws (including but not limited to those listed below) to account for the expansion of permission to discharge and sell fireworks to include a broader range of religious and cultural celebrations:

- 125-1992 Regulating the Sale and Use of Fireworks
- 49-2008 Nuisance and Noise Control Bylaw
- 42-2008 Business Licensing Bylaw

Authorize the Fire Chief to immediately be able to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Purpose:

Support the following priority:

An Engaging City

- Good Governance
- Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

Background and Discussion:

Our existing bylaws related to the use of fireworks are not broad enough to support the inclusion of the many religious and cultural events that exist in our growing city. For example, the 5-day Hindu festival of Diwali involves the “festival of lights” on the 3rd day, and our local Hindu community has asked to be able to use fireworks on that occasion. This year that event will take place on October 29, 2019.

In order for us to be a truly inclusive city, we need to expand the limitations in our fireworks-related bylaws to better accommodate such requests.

Financial Matters:

Not applicable.

Other Resource Impacts

Staff time required to look into bylaws and make potential revisions.

Conclusion:

Expanding our bylaws to provide broader permissions around the occasions that fireworks are permitted will enable us to be a more inclusive city to all our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.