

Calgary



Calgary Fire Department

Amendment to Fire Operations and Fees Bylaw 55M2014- Referral and Update

CPS2019-1435





At the 21 October 2019 Combined Meeting, Report CPS2019-11311 regarding an Amendment to the Fire Operations and Fees Bylaw 55M2014 to prohibit the sale and use of consumer fireworks in Calgary was referred to Administration to engage with stakeholders to consider options other than a ban on consumer fireworks and report back to the 13 November 2019 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services.



What are fireworks?



Consumer fireworks

- can be handheld or planted in ground to set off
- are sold in some other jurisdictions for personal use
- smaller, used often by general public in some areas
- do not require a license to use

Display fireworks

- only available for sale to professionals
- used at large celebrations (e.g. Calgary Stampede, Globalfest, Canada Day)
- require a permit to be set off
- permits can only be used by licensed professionals



Changes to Alberta Fire Code



- The 2019 National Fire Code – Alberta Edition removed reference to consumer fireworks, effective 2019 December 1
- Does not change process for commercial display fireworks, so large celebrations using commercial display fireworks (e.g. Globalfest) will not be affected
- Municipalities can decide which option to take:
 1. Allow use and sale
 2. Allow use and sale with restrictions
 3. Prohibit use and sale



Additional Engagement since 21 October



- Canadian National Fireworks Association
 - Meeting November 5
 - Productive discussion focusing on objectives of both agencies
 - Discussed options for fireworks regulation and appropriateness in Calgary context



Additional Engagement since 21 October



- Internal
 - Calgary Parks – fireworks permit process exists in parks already
 - Calgary Recreation – spaces not appropriate for fireworks use
 - Calgary Community Standards – not concerned about bylaw enforcement if permit process in place, no knowledge of business desire to sell fireworks (limited engagement)
- External
 - School Boards – both CBE and CCSB do not allow pyrotechnics on school property



- Approximately 9,100 injuries per year in the US (2018)
 - 1/3 of injuries affect children 5-9 years old
- Projections for Calgary:
 - additional 15-20 fires, 36 injuries, and approximately \$1M in property damage.
- Consumer fireworks recently banned in Vancouver after 12 year pilot
 - Halloween 2019 in Vancouver: 2 people injured, 20+ fires, \$357,000+ in property damage



Options Considered for Consumer Fireworks in Calgary



- Sale and use year round without a permit
- Sale and use 363-364 days/yr with a permit, 1 or 2 days without
- Sale and use with a permit only on specific holidays
- Continue current state – prohibit sale and use in Calgary



ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw to amend Bylaw 55M2014, City of Calgary Fire Operations and Fees Bylaw (Attachment 1) to prohibit the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

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