



Report Number: EC2025-0996

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 November 17

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Protecting Calgary's Neighbourhoods - Strengthening Fireworks Enforcement and Awareness

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Raj Dhaliwal, and Mayor Jeromy Farkas

WHEREAS...

- The use of fireworks by unpermitted individuals has become increasingly common in Calgary neighbourhoods, creating significant safety concerns, fire risks, noise disturbances, and negative impacts on residents and pets;
- Under the City of Calgary's Bylaw **55M2014**, fireworks may only be possessed, sold, or discharged with a proper permit, yet illegal sales and unpermitted discharges continue to occur;
- Existing fines and enforcement provisions may not serve as an adequate deterrent to unlawful sale or use of fireworks;
- Calgary Police Service (CPS) and Calgary Fire Department (CFD) have limited capacity to respond in real time to widespread fireworks incidents, particularly during holidays;
- There is an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the City, CPS, CFD, community associations, and faith-based and cultural organizations to educate residents on safe and legal celebrations;
- Many Calgarians have expressed interest in organized, community-wide celebrations similar to Canada Day and New Year's Eve, which could offer a safe and inclusive alternative to illegal fireworks displays.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee forward this Notice of Motion to the Regular Meeting of Council for consideration; and further,

BE IT RESOLVED that Council...

1. Direct Administration to report back to the Community Development Committee on:
 - a. Potential bylaw amendments to strengthen enforcement from the sales and distribution perspective, including review of current fines, penalties, and licensing requirements for individuals or businesses found selling fireworks illegally;
 - b. Options for improved coordination between CPS, CFD, and Community Standards to proactively identify and address sources of illegal fireworks sales and distribution prior to major holidays;
 - c. Opportunities for education and outreach in collaboration with local faith groups, community associations, and cultural organizations, aimed at promoting safety and awareness about the risks and regulations surrounding fireworks use;
 - d. The potential to pilot or expand City-supported community celebrations (e.g., during Diwali, Canada Day, New Year's Eve, etc.) that provide a safe, centralized alternative to neighbourhood fireworks; and

ISC: UNRESTRICTED

- e. The financial implications and potential funding sources for the above initiatives, including options to partner with community organizations or leverage sponsorship opportunities.
2. Administration report back no later than Q3 2026 with recommendations, including any proposed amendments to the Fireworks Bylaw and associated resource or budget requirements.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of Motion Checklist