

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015

Item 31, Report No. 17, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 21, 2015, as follows:

By receiving Communication C11 from Ms. Andrea [REDACTED], dated April 15, 2015.

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FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMITS

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated April 14, 2015:

Recommendation

The City Clerk in consultation with the Manager of Special Projects, Licensing and Permits, Director of By-Law and Compliance and the Deputy Fire Chief recommends:

1. That Display Firework permits issued for 2015 contain a time restriction prohibiting fireworks discharge after 10:00 p.m. except for Canada Day and Victoria Day when detonation will be permitted until 11:00 p.m.

Contribution to Sustainability

By introducing a time limit of 10:00 p.m. the City will be balancing the interest of persons wishing to set off display fireworks while at the same time protecting the City's residents from excessive noise late in the night.

Economic Impact

The adoption of the recommendation will have no financial impact to the City.

Communications Plan

The Fire Department, subject to Council's approval of the above recommendation, will be amending the fireworks display permit application to reflect the amended time for the detonation of display fireworks to no later than 10:00 p.m. generally, and to no later than 11:00 p.m. for Canada Day and Victoria Day.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Council's request that a report be brought forward to review the issuance of fireworks display permits, especially in relation to applications in close proximity to residential areas.

Background - Analysis and Options

By its adoption of Item 25 of Report No. 2 of the Committee of the Whole of January 20, 2015, Council directed that a report be brought forward to review the issuance of fireworks display permits in relation to applications close to residential areas.

At present, By-Law 124-98, the Fireworks By-law, does not impose time of day restrictions on the discharge of fireworks.

Display permits which are issued by the City's Fire Department restrict the discharge of fireworks to no later than 11:00 p.m. in accordance with the City's Noise By-Law, 96-2006, as amended, which prohibits any detonation of fireworks or explosives after 11:00 p.m. Approximately 45 permits were issued in 2014.

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As the City becomes more urbanized the noise generated from the discharge of fireworks becomes more of an issue within residential areas. In consultation with the Deputy Fire Chief and the Director of By-Law and Compliance, it was determined that adjusting the general end time for fireworks displays would balance the needs of groups wishing to have fireworks displays at their events while at the same time protecting the quiet enjoyment of residents in their homes. It is therefore being recommended that display permits issued for 2015 contain a restriction that fireworks cannot be discharged after 10:00 p.m. except for Canada Day and Victoria Day when permits will be issued up until 11:00 p.m.

The exceptions for Canada Day and Victoria Day are considered to be reasonable given the status of these statutory holidays. Further, there is no significant history of complaints associated with fireworks displays to 11:00 p.m. on those holidays.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities of Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan particularly:

SERVICE EXCELLENCE – Promote Community Safety, Health and Wellness.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

By limiting the discharge of fireworks to 10:00 p.m. on days other than Canada Day and Victoria Day, staff believe that the impact of noise on residential areas will be more readily accepted by the City's residents. Permitting discharge until 11:00 p.m. on Canada Day and Victoria Day is reasonable given the status of these holidays and the lack of a history of complaints.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

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Insurance Risk Management