

**Subject: Re: FW: Notice of Motion banning of fireworks - report Councillor Crist**

**Date:** Wed, 05 Nov 2003 19:20:51 -0800

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**To:** Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**CC:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, cagebc@yahoo.com, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, gary\_calder@dnv.org

Dear Councillor Crist,

While I appreciate your desire for safety during Halloween celebrations, I can not disagree more with your recommendation to ban fireworks in NVD.

If your recommendation is passed by Council the ONLY outcome will be that the legitimate and safe users of fireworks will be affected. The dangerous and illegal activity that you describe will continue unabated. Far too much focus is placed on the illegal activities. Perfectly safe and legal family fireworks displays on Halloween are part of the cultural fabric of this province. In my neighbourhood parents and children gather together in the privacy of their yards after trick-or-treating to enjoy a little magic ... and your motion would put an end to it.

There will always be hooligans and young morons who like to play with fire. What you have to understand is that the firecrackers and bottle rockets that are so prevalent ARE ALREADY ILLEGAL. They are purchased in Washington State on Indian reserves and smuggled across the border in huge quantities and sold illegally to local youngsters on schoolgrounds. Illegal fireworks are so EASY to buy -- and I know this, because I bought them when I was young.

Incidents of arson (it doesn't matter if gasoline or fireworks is used) is a crime and should be treated as such. Likewise, acts of vandalism with pipe bombs or intimidation of citizens by gangs of youths should be addressed accordingly by the authorities. Beyond the sensationalized press reports, however, how many injuries due to fireworks were actually registered by the local medical clinics and LGH Emergency? When I asked that question a few years ago when the issue came up, the answer was none.

In closing, please leave alone those many, many families who safely use legally purchased and approved fireworks on Halloween.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts

Ernie Crist wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: November 5, 2003 5:05 PM

To: Nathalie Valdes

Subject: Notice of Motion banning of fireworks - report Councillor Crist

Motion - Banning of fireworks in the District - Report Councillor Crist:

That staff be requested to provide a report for Council's consideration to ban the sale and use of all fireworks in the District of North Vancouver other than to bona fide organizations for use only under their own direct supervision.

Reason for Report:

Region wide reports about dangerous excesses by youth during the recent Halloween fireworks displays throughout the region have prompted the Lower Mainland press to call for a complete ban on fireworks in the Region including North Van.

Although at the present there is a ban on the sale of fireworks to youth, apparently it is not difficult for youth to obtain such fireworks and through their reckless use, intimidate the public and create serious safety and fire hazards. It is obvious that adults who obtain fireworks legally, in turn, pass them on to youth.

On the other hand, the legal system is such that even though fireworks may not be sold

and or be used by young persons. The legal system is so ineffective and weak that potential offenders may safely ignore Bylaws to that effect.

In light of this it is appropriate to ban the sale and use of fireworks altogether other than to bona fide organizations and provided these organization themselves conduct fireworks under strict adult supervision and in the name of their own bona fide organization.

Ernie Crist