

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Fireworks]

Date: Wed, 02 Nov 2005 13:44:36 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

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

Subject: Re: FW: Fireworks

Date: Wed, 02 Nov 2005 13:42:00 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Gary Calder <Gary_Calder@dnv.org>

CC: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, James Ridge <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, MayorandCouncil@westvancouver.ca, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

References: <8C8D665AE92D4643801E806BC27EC1940195B1A1@mail2003.cdnv.dnv.ca>

Dear Chief Calder:

Your e-mail exchange was forwarded to me by Councillor Crist. The facts you outline are very important to consider when examining the effectiveness of NV District's Fireworks Regulation Bylaw. Banning the sale and use of safe, Canadian-approved consumer fireworks will do nothing to prevent the sort of illegal behavior by youths on Halloween that is drawing complaints.

My nephew in grade 9 at Handsworth Secondary informs me that all types of illegal firecrackers, including so-called "Mighty Mites," "M-80s," and "bottle rockets" can be easily purchased from other kids on and off the school grounds. These dangerous items are banned in Canada, but as you alluded to in your e-mail, they are illegally imported and sold on the black market; they cannot be bought from any licensed retailer anywhere.

Those calling for a ban on the retail sale of consumer fireworks will accomplish only one thing: to deny the safe, fun use of Halloween fireworks for families across the province. Vandalism, arson, and the prevalent use illegal firecrackers, homemade bombs and molotov cocktails etc. will continued unabated on Halloween.

In contrast to the mayhem, on Halloween night after trick-or-treating was over, neighbours on three sides of my family's house put on wonderful backyard fireworks displays for their children. I also purchased legal fireworks (with a required permit) and put on a small display for my nephews on my own property. This sort of simple Halloween magic that many families enjoy once-a-year occurs across the North Shore, the Lower Mainland, and the province. Hopefully we will not allow the few vandals and arsonists to ruin this harmless celebration.

There are some people who do not have any interest in fireworks and therefore want to ban others from enjoying it. How sad. Yes, fireworks tend to frighten some dogs, but those dogs are in no danger if contained indoors or within a properly fenced yard.

Halloween vandalism, arson, and general mayhem is not unique to B.C. nor is the root cause of this behavior the sale of safe, Canadian approved fireworks. Indeed, if the sale of safe Halloween fireworks purchased by responsible adults with a permit is ultimately banned, that action might well increase the demand of the dangerous illegal items that find their way over the border and into the hands of children.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts
3187 Beverley Crescent
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7R 2W4

Ernie Crist wrote:

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

From: Gary Calder

Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2005 10:38 AM

To: 'smitker@shaw.ca'

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: RE: Fireworks

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Thank you for your correspondence to Council regarding fireworks and the District of North Vancouver Fireworks Regulation Bylaw.

You are absolutely correct in that fireworks do not belong on the streets or in the hands of underage persons and Council has already banned purchase, possession and discharge of fireworks to the 14 to 17 year olds as you have suggested. You may read the DNV Fireworks Regulation Bylaw at dnv.org, click "government", then "bylaws."

The DNV Bylaw requires that fireworks may only be purchased, possessed, or safely discharged at a specified insured location under Permit by adults showing appropriate ID. Although numerous Permits were issued to adults for the purpose of legal neighbourhood displays there were NO REPORTS of injury or property damage at any legal DNV neighbourhood display. The value of the DNV Bylaw, beyond enriching the fireworks vendors, is captured by the ability of adult Canadians to enjoy a safe and legal family neighbourhood event. This ability is extremely well received by many of our residents and supported by Terry Matts, Explosives Regulatory Division - Canada, who addressed Council strongly supporting the DNV Bylaw.

Further, fireworks may be seized and tickets may be issued to those not complying with the Bylaw.

Those jurisdictions that have a Bylaw banning the sale and possession of fireworks have exactly the same illegal use issues as does the DNV.

We suggest that illegal (not legal) sales and importation of fireworks are a common problem in all jurisdictions regardless of their Bylaw and that the problems that your correspondence describes may be a matter of enforcing the existing laws. Hopefully you contacted the RCMP to make them aware of the illegal activity in your neighbourhood so that they could act.

To this end, we have sent a copy of your concerns to the RCMP for their review and consideration.

Best regards.

G.D. Calder,
Fire Chief
District of North Vancouver
(604) 990-3653
calderg@dnv.org