

File: 4570-20

January 28, 2021

Electoral Areas Services Committee
Comox Valley Regional District

Re: Fireworks Regulation

In follow up to the recent staff presentation of the proposed financial plan for Function 299 - Fireworks Regulation Service, I am writing to request your consideration of seeking further information from staff on establishing a consistent regulatory approach for the sale and discharge of fireworks within the Comox Valley.

While the explosion of fireworks is a tradition appreciated by many residents for special events and festivities, this activity comes with a number of tangible impacts, including property and fire damage, injury to people, air and noise pollution, as well as causing considerable suffering and injury to wildlife and domestic animals and livestock, due to the fear and trauma they experience. Regrettably, these issues are experienced following each and every event with a number of residents subsequently taking the time and effort to relay their concerns to me as their elected official.

Given this dichotomy, I recognize that this is a complex issue with many different perspectives and it is therefore my hope that a reasonable balance can be struck to ensure fireworks remain a part of our community celebrations while limiting the impact.

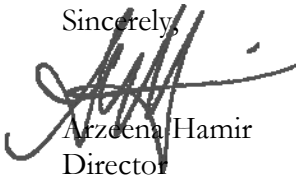
Each local government has the jurisdiction to set their own regulations concerning fireworks however, the close geographic nature of our communities warrants our best efforts to achieve a consistent and coordinated approach. For this reason, I am seeking a collaborative approach to explore this issue.

As the Director for Electoral Area B, I respectfully request your consideration of the following:

THAT staff be directed to bring forward a report providing options concerning the further regulation of the discharge and sale of fireworks within Electoral Areas A, B and C of the Comox Valley Regional District;

AND FURTHER THAT the report include the current regulations and views of each local jurisdiction and authority with the intention of establishing a consistent regulatory approach across the region.

Sincerely,



Arzeena Hamir
Director