



Hello Town Clerk's Staff,

Please note the following response to Delegate Request Application has been submitted at Saturday October 21st 2023 8:33 PM with reference number 2023-10-21-036.

<https://forms.milton.ca/Management/Response/View/c90165d0-b31f-4bed-a4a9-b0a3ebe2bcd7>

Application Information

- **First Name:**
Bill
- **Last Name**
Raynault
- **Email Address:**
[REDACTED]
- **Phone number:**
[REDACTED]
- **Town**
Milton
- **Are you representing a group?**
No
- **Council Meeting Date**
10/23/2023
- **Please indicate how you intend to participate during the Council Meeting**
Both audio and video
- **Please describe the issue you intend to present:**
Keeping consumer fireworks legal to buy and use in Milton.

- **Please describe specific actions you want Council to take:**
Keep it at status quo.
- **Staff Report Number (if known)**
Consumer Fireworks
- **Please provide your comments in support of or in opposition to the staff recommendation:**
Good evening, Mayor, and Esteemed Members of Council,

My name is Bill Raynault, the General Manager of Mystical Distributing Company, a leading importer and distributor of fireworks. Tonight, I come before you not merely as a businessman but as a custodian of tradition, a believer in inclusivity, and an advocate for preserving the rich culture that defines our great nation.

I would like to address the concerns raised in the report regarding the ban on consumer fireworks in Milton, Ontario. While I understand that safety is paramount, I believe there are compelling reasons to reconsider this decision.

First, I would like to emphasize that fireworks in Canada have an excellent safety record. Unlike our neighbors to the south, Canadian fireworks are heavily regulated, and this has resulted in an impressive safety track record. Over the past 25 years, there have been zero deaths related to consumer fireworks in Canada. This is a testament to the strict regulations and the responsible use of these products in our country.

Furthermore, when we look at injury statistics, it becomes evident that the risks associated with consumer fireworks are relatively low. According to the Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) database, there were only 210 reported cases of injuries related to fireworks in the past 12 years. This represents just 11 cases per 100,000 CHIRPP records. In contrast, let's consider other everyday items like candles, which have been responsible for nearly 800 candle fires each year, resulting in an average of 8 fire deaths, 115 fire injuries, and \$26.2 million in property damage. It's important to note that we aren't discussing banning these items, nor are we

considering the prohibition of cigarette use despite the fact that cigarette-related fires have led to a significant number of deaths and injuries in Canada over the years.

The report seems to focus on the 30 x 30 meter distance requirement, which I believe is unnecessary. The government regulations already require consumers to use the distances indicated on every product label, and we import over 600 products to cater to various property sizes in Canada, some of which can be used safely within the 30-meter space. Banning fireworks due to a distance requirement that goes against federal regulations doesn't make sense.

Moreover, prohibiting firework sales doesn't actually enhance the safety of your community. It's safer to have local retailers supply and educate users about proper firework handling than to have them buy off the internet. If you ban fireworks, people will simply take their business outside the city, leading to a loss of educational opportunities and local business profits.

The report also mentions a list of banned communities, including U.S. cities, but it fails to acknowledge the many Canadian cities that have not only retained fireworks but have even added more holidays for their enjoyment, such as London, Ontario, Chatham-Kent, Ontario, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

One crucial point to consider is that a ban will not stop the illegal use of a federally legal product. People who wish to use fireworks will still do so, regardless of the ban. Discharge permits have proven ineffective, as we have seen in various parts of Canada. Instead, a ban would only encourage underground sales and internet purchases, further exacerbating the issue.

Lastly, your report mentions that this ban will only affect two people. While the numbers may be small, I urge you to consider what if it were you or your loved ones who were affected by this decision. The impact, even on a small scale, can be significant and personal.

In closing, I humbly request that Milton continues to embrace and uphold the fireworks tradition. By doing so, we preserve our cultural



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heritage, celebrate inclusivity, and support local businesses. Traditions are the threads that weave us into a stronger, more harmonious society. Let us celebrate our shared cultural heritage and enjoy the beauty and wonder that fireworks bring to our community. Thank you for your consideration.

- **Do you give your permission to be audio and video recorded on the Town of Milton's live Council meeting stream?**

Yes I give my permission