

**Subject:** New Fireworks By-law

**Staff Report No.** CPS-003-25

**Department/  
Commission:** Corporate Services Commission

**Date:** February 19, 2025

**Recommendation:**

- 1) That Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to prohibit the sale of fireworks and the discharge of family fireworks as contained in Attachment No. 1 and amend the AMPs By-law accordingly.

**Report Highlights**

- The proposed Fireworks By-law will focus on improving safety and enforcement by banning the sale of all fireworks and prohibiting the use of family fireworks in the Town of Stouffville.
- These changes will move fireworks-related offences to the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS), making enforcement simpler and less dependent on court processes.
- Display fireworks will still be allowed with a permit, helping to keep the community safe and reduce disruptions.

**1. Purpose:**

This report provides an overview of the proposed new Fireworks By-law, explaining key changes and rationale behind repealing the existing Firework By-law 2019-077-FR, including proposed penalties under AMPS.

**2. Background:**

On June 18, 2019, Council passed the Fireworks By-law 2019-077-FR which outlined the sale and use of fireworks.

Over the past five (5) years, concerns have been raised regarding minors setting off fireworks in parks and the ease of access to purchase fireworks. In rural and/or urban areas, the use of fireworks can cause disturbances and high levels of noise. These

concerns highlight the importance of ensuring both safety and quiet environments in these communities. In response, on January 17, 2024, Council approved the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** the use and sale of personal fireworks can cause safety concerns and challenges in the community;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council direct staff to undertake a comprehensive review of the Town's Fireworks By-law and report back to Council.

Staff conducted a review focused on the use and sale of personal fireworks which have raised safety concerns and enforcement challenges within the community, as well as the processes for permitting and licensing these activities.

On October 16, 2024, staff brought forward report CPS-022-24 recommending changes to the existing Fireworks By-law based on the review conducted of surrounding municipalities. As a result of discussion, Council approved the following motion:

**Moved by: Councillor Bartley**

**Seconded by: Councillor Acton**

1. That staff bring forward amendments to the Fireworks By-law to ban the sale of fireworks, use of family fireworks, and bring the fireworks bylaw under AMPS; and
2. That these by-law amendments be brought forward in Q1 of 2025.

**Carried as Amended**

### **3. Analysis:**

#### **3.1 Existing Fireworks By-law**

The existing Fireworks By-law permits the sale of fireworks without requiring a license or permit and allows their discharge during designated holiday periods or with an approved permit. Enforcement relies on municipal officers or fire officials, with fines issued under the *Provincial Offences Act*, as the by-law does not currently incorporate Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPS).

#### **3.2 Proposed Fireworks By-law**

The proposed new Fireworks By-law will prohibit the sale of all fireworks within the Town of Stouffville. It will also distinguish between family fireworks and display fireworks for discharge. Family fireworks refer to fireworks that are typically used for recreational purposes. They can also be referred to as consumer fireworks. On the other hand, display

fireworks includes high hazard fireworks that are typically used for large public displays and are designed to be used by professionals.

The new By-law will prohibit the discharge of family fireworks in the Town of Stouffville and will also bring offences related to non-compliance of sale and discharge under the AMPS Program. This will provide streamlined and efficient enforcement processes, allowing for quicker resolution of violations and reducing reliance on lengthy court proceedings under the *Provincial Offences Act*. Many municipalities in both York and Durham Regions have brought fireworks violations under AMPS as it allows officers to issue penalties directly and creates a formalized process for dealing with violations. Utilizing AMPS as an enforcement tool for the Fireworks By-law will be effective April 1, 2025.

The revised by-law will continue to permit the discharge of display fireworks. These will still require a permit at a fee of \$138 plus HST.

Banning the sale of all fireworks and the use of family fireworks will improve safety by addressing concerns about minors setting them off, lowering the risk of injuries, and removing licensing issues since no licenses or permits will be needed, except for display fireworks. The ban will also reduce noise problems, especially from late-night fireworks. Overall, the benefits of the new Fireworks By-law are intended to outweigh any drawback from no longer being able to use fireworks in the Town of Stouffville.

### 3.3 Penalty Amounts under AMPS

Staff undertook a review of the fines imposed by surrounding municipalities as it relates to non-compliance with the sale and discharge of fireworks. The penalties imposed tended to be consistent for all offences in that they did not vary greatly from one charge to the next. In general, other municipalities imposed penalties ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 with some falling under or over that range. Accordingly, staff have taken a similar approach in determining the penalty amounts under AMPS for the Town of Stouffville. A copy of the proposed penalties can be found below:

Designated Provisions for Fireworks By-law 2025-XXX-FR					
COLUMN 1 Item #	COLUMN 2 Provisions of Designated By-law	COLUMN 3 Short Form Wording	COLUMN 4 1 <sup>st</sup> Offence Set Penalty	COLUMN 5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence Set Penalty	COLUMN 6 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offence Set Penalty
1.	2.1	Sell or offer for sale any Fireworks	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
2.	3.1	Set off Family Fireworks on any day during the year.	\$300	\$400	\$500
3.	4.1	Set off or hold a display of Display Fireworks without a Permit.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000

4.	4.2	Set off or hold Display Fireworks at a date, time or site other than specified in the Permit.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
5.	4.3	Set off or hold a display of Display Fireworks without written permission of the owner.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
6.	4.4	Fail to permit inspection of Display Fireworks.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
7.	4.5	Set off Display Fireworks without valid Fireworks Supervisor's Card.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
8.	4.6	Fail to have Fireworks Supervisor present during set up, firing, or clean up of Display Fireworks.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
9.	4.7	Set off Display Fireworks inside or on any building, structure or motor vehicle.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
10.	4.8	Set off Display Fireworks within 300 metres of inflammable substances.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
11.	4.9	Set off Display Fireworks within 150 metres of nursing home, hospital, home for the aged.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
12.	4.10	Set off Display Fireworks within 150 metres of church or school without prior permission.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
13.	4.11	Set off Display Fireworks in a manner that creates nuisance, unsafe condition, danger, risk of injury or damage.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
14.	4.12(a)	Fail to supervise display of Display Fireworks.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
15.	4.12(b)	Fail to provide and maintain extinguishing equipment.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
16.	4.12(c)	Fail to comply with the provisions of legislation and Display Fireworks Manual.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
17.	4.12(d)	Fail to remove debris and unused Fireworks from site.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
18.	4.12(e)	Fail to observe any condition specified by the Fire Chief.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
19.	4.13	Discharge Display Fireworks in a manner that does not	\$500	\$800	\$1,000

		comply with the conditions of the Permit.			
20.	4.14	Fail to produce Permit for Display Fireworks when directed to do so by Fire Chief.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
21.	5.1	Set off or hold a display of Pyrotechnic Special Effect Fireworks without a Permit.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
22.	5.2(a)	Fail to supervise display of Pyrotechnic Special Effects Fireworks.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
23.	5.2(b)	Fail to provide and maintain extinguishing equipment.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
24.	5.2(c)	Fail to comply with the provisions of legislation and Pyrotechnic Special Effects Manual.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
25.	5.2(d)	Fail to remove debris and unused Fireworks from site.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
26.	5.2(e)	Fail to observe any condition specified by the Fire Chief.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
27.	5.3	Discharge Pyrotechnic Special Effect Fireworks in a manner that does not comply with the conditions of the Permit.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000
28.	5.4	Fail to produce Permit for Pyrotechnic Special Effect Fireworks when directed to do so by Fire Chief.	\$500	\$800	\$1,000

#### 4. Options:

##### 4.1 Option A (Recommended)

That Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to prohibit the sale of fireworks and the discharge of family fireworks as contained in Attachment No. 1 and amend the AMPs By-law accordingly.

#### 5. Financial Implications:

The addition of Fireworks offences under AMPS, may generate revenue.

The minimal revenue loss from family fireworks permits will be negligible. However, the proposed adjustments may have adverse effects on local businesses that have historically sold fireworks.

## **6. Broader Intergovernmental Impacts and/or Considerations:**

None.

## **7. Communication:**

Upon approval of the Fireworks By-law, notice will be communicated to the public via the Town's website, social media accounts, On The Road magazine and any other method deemed appropriate.

## **8. Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

1. A Safe Town  
Make our community safer
2. Good Governance  
Provide Good Governance
3. Organizational Effectiveness  
To Elevate our Organizational Effectiveness

## **9. Attachments:**

Attachment No. 1 – Draft Fireworks By-law

## **10. Related Reports:**

[CPS-022-24 Firework By-law Update](#)

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