



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

From: Councillor Ken Armour and Councillor Meagan Brame

Introduced: Council Meeting – November 16, 2020

**Subject: Regulation of Fireworks in Esquimalt**

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**WHEREAS:** Esquimalt's current bylaw regulating the use of fireworks dates back to 2007;

**WHEREAS:** Esquimalt Council has recently received (following Halloween) input from some Esquimalt residents calling for a ban on fireworks, noting that they cause air pollution, that the associated noise can scare wildlife and domestic pets, and that the explosions can cause harm to humans and animals;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That Council approve, in principle, a ban on the sale and use of fireworks in Esquimalt and direct staff to draft a report on how to best move forward with this ban. The report should briefly explore approaches taken by other municipalities, issues around enforcement, and the possibility of the Esquimalt Fire Department occasionally holding brief fireworks displays to commemorate special events.

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### BACKGROUND

#### Esquimalt's Current Bylaw on the Regulation of Fireworks

A person must obtain a permit from the Fire Chief in order to legally discharge fireworks within Esquimalt.

#### Approaches taken by other Municipalities

While some municipalities, like Esquimalt, Victoria and Saanich, regulate the use of fireworks through a permitting process, other municipalities, like the City of Vancouver, have recently banned the sale and use of fireworks. Vancouver's new bylaw was endorsed by the Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, which estimates fireworks cause an average of \$300,000 to 400,000 each year in fire damage in the city.