

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 1, 2006**

### **NEW FIREWORKS BY-LAW**

#### **Recommendation**

The Acting Fire Chief, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services and Solicitor/Special Services, recommends:

1. That this report be received;
2. That Council enact a by-law regulating the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks, and pyrotechnics special effects.

#### **Economic Impact**

The revenue from fire works related permits was approximately \$ 1200.00 in 2005, and a marginal increase can be expected in 2006 given the addition of pyrotechnics.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to consider the enactment of a Fireworks By-law dealing with the regulation of the possession, use and setting off of Fireworks within the City of Vaughan.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

In 1998, Council passed By-law Number 124-98 to regulate the sale and setting off of fireworks. This by-law was used by the licensing department to regulate and license the sale of fireworks, and by the fire service and enforcement services to control the setting off of fireworks. In 2004, Council passed By-law Number 369-2004 to separate out regulation of the sale, possession and setting off of Display Fireworks and Theatrical Fireworks, leaving the regulation of the sale of Consumer Fireworks in the Licensing By-law, By-law Number 2-2001.

Council passed the Licensing By-law, 2006, By-law Number 315-2005 in 2005, that established requirements only related to obtaining a licence for the sale of consumer fireworks. This by-law repealed By-law Number 369-2004, on the basis that staff would be bringing forward a revised by-law dealing specifically and only with regulating the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects, including the circumstances where a permit would be required and the implementation of changes to address outstanding safety issues.

Some of the highlights of the new Fireworks By-law include:

- Fire Crackers and nuisance fireworks are prohibited.
- The setting off of consumer fireworks *without a permit* is only permitted on Canada Day and Victoria Day.
- The setting off of consumer fireworks is permitted at other times during the year only with a permit issued by the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
- New restrictions with respect to distances from certain facilities.
- New restrictions with respect to bothering or endangering neighbours.
- New safety requirements for the setting off of consumer fireworks.
- The setting off of display fireworks still requires a permit with stringent conditions.
- A completely new section of the by-law covers the use of pyrotechnic special effects. This is in response to public complaints of unlicensed persons using pyrotechnic special effects in unsafe ways at functions in banquet halls, etc.

- The permit fees (\$150.00) are transferred to Schedule E of the City's Fees and Charges By-law.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report complies with Vaughan Vision 2007 – A-2, Promote Community Safety, Health & Wellness.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

In order to properly regulate the possession, use and setting off of consumer fireworks, display fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects within the City of Vaughan, Council should enact a new by-law.

### **Attachments**

None

Respectfully submitted,

G. R. Senay  
Acting Fire Chief