

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

**General Issues Committee: November 15, 2023**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG.....**

### **Celebrating Canada Day in a New Climate Change Reality**

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton declared a climate change emergency on March 27, 2019, with a mission to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change, thereby positioning itself as a climate change leader;

WHEREAS Priority 1 of City Council's 2023-2026 priorities is Sustainable Economic & Ecological Development which includes a commitment to protect our unique natural landscape and waterways and mitigate the impacts of climate change;

WHEREAS the air quality in Hamilton leading up to the Canada Day 2023 celebrations was deemed high risk by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks;

WHEREAS climate change effects include the increased risk of wildfires and wildfire smoke from areas outside of Hamilton which lead to increased concerns about compromised air quality especially over the summer months;

WHEREAS when traditional fireworks explode, metallic compounds are released into the environment that can be carcinogenic or toxic to both humans and animals. The smoke from fireworks generates particulate matter that affects air quality and make breathing more difficult for people with asthma or other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions;

WHEREAS people with a variety of traumas and mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, those with neurodivergence and autism, military veterans, and people who have fled war-torn regions may suffer due to fireworks;

WHEREAS fireworks create short-term noise and light disturbances that cause distress in domestic animals that may be managed before or after a firework event, but the impacts to wildlife can be on a much larger scale;

WHEREAS the annual timing of some large-scale firework events coincides with the migratory or reproductive movements of wildlife, and may therefore have adverse long-term population effects on them;

WHEREAS there are alternatives to traditional/conventional fireworks such as laser light shows, drone shows, or other low-altitude, low-noise, special effects pyrotechnic displays;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton is preparing a Request for Proposal for a producer of its annual Canada Day celebration of which a final spectacle show is the key feature, and that in the past has been a fireworks display;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Tourism and Events staff study the feasibility of alternatives to fireworks for a Canada Day spectacle show that are more responsive to our climate action, biodiversity and public health priorities and report back to the General Issues Committee by Q1 2024; and,
- (b) That Tourism and Events staff are directed to include a scoring strategy for the Request For Proposal for a 5-year Canada Day producer contract bid that prioritizes an option that is responsive to our climate action, biodiversity and public health priorities in seeking a replacement to the current fireworks spectacle.