



Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce

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December 14, 2020

Town of Drumheller
Attn: Mayor Colberg & Councilors
224 Centre Street
Drumheller, Alberta T0J 0Y4

Re: Public Hearing – Fireworks Bylaw #19.20

Dear Mayor Colberg & Councilors,

On behalf of the Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce (DDCC) and our Business Advocacy Committee, we have reviewed the draft Fireworks Bylaw and would like to offer our feedback. As an organization representing over 240 businesses in the Drumheller area, the DDCC believes in fostering a business-friendly environment with a reduction in administrative red tape. The draft Fireworks Bylaw as it currently reads is a barrier to small business and will only drive commerce outside of our community.

In speaking with our four local firework vendors (Badlands Event Rentals, Bernie & the Boys, NN News and R&J Flowers) and Perry Logan of the Canadian National Fireworks Association, we feel that the \$500 vendor permit fee is unreasonable. These businesses are already required to pay their annual business license to the Town and should not have to pay an additional fee to add a new product offering to their existing business. In addition, the requirement that vendors carry a minimum of \$2,000,000 insurance with proof provided to the Town, as well as naming the Town as an additional insured on their commercial policy is unnecessary. Legitimate business operators will already have adequate liability insurance in place.

Additional red tape measures, such as a yearly criminal record check for firework vendors and the requirement for enhanced recordkeeping (ex. date and time of expected firework use, location and description of the site where fireworks will be used) are not only time consuming, but will also be an added cost for firework vendors. Streamlining municipal processes needs to be considered if we hope to encourage economic growth in our community.

From a consumer perspective, the \$35 permit to discharge consumer or low-hazard fireworks, is also a deterrent that will impact local firework vendors. While a discharge permit should be required as a courtesy to the Town's Protective Services department, the permit fee should be removed. Our local firework vendors will simply lose sales if consumers choose to forgo discharging fireworks because of the \$35 permit fee, on top of the cost of fireworks.

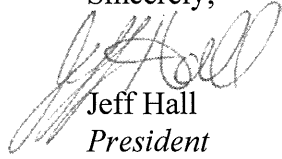
As an advocate for the business community, the Drumheller and District Chamber of Commerce would request that our feedback be given strong consideration. We would welcome the opportunity for further discussion with Town administration prior to the bylaw going to Council

DDCC Corporate Members

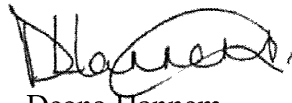


for 2nd and 3rd reading. Our desire would be a more streamlined bylaw that encourages economic activity in our community, while ensuring public safety is addressed.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hall
President



Deana Hannem
Business Advocacy Committee Chair