



CORPORATE SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: COR-2025-19

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Kaitlin Bos, Manager of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk

PREPARED BY: Erin Merritt, Supervisor of Municipal Law Enforcement

REVIEWED BY: Greg Clark, Acting CAO

DATE: May 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Fireworks By-law Exemption – 23 Meadowcliff Place, Mannheim

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee receives report COR-2025-19 Fireworks By-law Exemption – 23 Meadowcliff, Mannheim for information; and,

THAT Council approves an exemption to the Township of Wilmot Fireworks By-law 2023-17 for the municipal address known as 23 Meadowcliff Place, Mannheim for Saturday, June 28th, 2025, from 9:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

SUMMARY:

An exemption is being sought to By-law 2023-17 being the Fireworks By-law to allow for the setting off of fireworks for a 65th Birthday celebration taking place on Saturday, June 28th, 2025 from 9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

BACKGROUND:

Section 121 of the Municipal Act, 2001, grants municipalities the power to pass by-laws regarding various aspects of public safety, including fireworks regulations. Specifically, it allows municipalities to prohibit or regulate the sale and setting off of fireworks.

The Township of Wilmot's Fireworks By-law 2023-17 came into force and effect on April 3rd, 2023. The Fireworks By-law permits the setting off of fireworks on Victoria Day, Canada Day, Diwali, Lunar New Year and the days immediately before and after the aforementioned list.

Historically, Council has provided opportunities for exemptions to its By-laws on an ad-hoc basis, including the Noise By-law to support community events and special occasions for both public and private functions.

REPORT:

The Township has received a request for a Fireworks By-law exemption for a 65th Birthday celebration. Since the Canada Day holiday falls on a Tuesday this year, the applicant is requesting this exemption to allow for a small private rear yard fireworks display to celebrate this milestone birthday on Saturday, June 28th, 2025.

The Township does not receive many requests for exemptions to the Fireworks By-law, so the applicant was asked to notify neighbours of this exemption request, in a similar manner to that of requesting a Noise By-law exemption. The applicant delivered over 200 notification letters to neighbours, and the Township received four responses of which three are included here as Attachment 2. The fourth response echoes the sentiment of the attached.

In addition to notification of neighbours, the Township of Wilmot Fire Department was circulated on this request and had no objections. The Township of Wilmot Municipal Law Enforcement team has no objections to the request.

The Township of Wilmot is currently conducting a Fireworks By-law review with the Cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, and Woolwich. We are working together to try to improve firework safety across the region and are exploring a coordinated approach to better manage and enforce fireworks regulations. Staff will report to the Committee of the Whole in June with a summary of feedback and any proposed changes.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Healthy Community

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: By-law 2023-17 being the Fireworks By-law

Attachment 2 - Notification Letter and Comments Received from Neighbours