



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** General Government Committee

**Date of Meeting:** January 4, 2021

**Report Number:** LGS-004-21

**Submitted By:** Rob Maciver, Director of Legislative Services

**Reviewed By:** Andrew C. Allison, CAO

**By-law Number:**

**File Number:**

**Resolution#:**

**Report Subject:** Fireworks Permitting

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### Recommendation:

1. That Report LGS-004-21 be received for information.

## Report Overview

This report provides background on the permitting process for Cultural, Religious or Special Occasions outside of the exempted days of Canada and Victoria Day.

### 1. Background

- 1.1 On the November 30, 2020 General Government Committee meeting, Committee passed the following Resolution #GG-440-20 to the December 14, 2020 Council meeting:  
  
That [Communication Item 11.4](#), regarding Request to Amend By-law 2015-047 to include Diwali as an Exemption to Require a Permit, be referred to staff for their input on the process to be followed
- 1.2 Current exemptions for discharging of fireworks under Bylaw 2015-047 are for the three days preceding Canada Day and Victoria Day. A permit to discharge is required for any days outside of current exemptions.
- 1.3 Currently within Durham Region, only Oshawa has an exemption for Diwali. Toronto also includes an exemption in their By-law. Like Clarington, other Municipalities allow for discharging of fireworks outside of the exempted days through a permitting process.
- 1.4 Diwali is a festival that is aligned with the Hindu Lunisolar Calendar; generally between mid October and mid November. The celebration occurs over five days, with the third day being the darkest day of the month and often associated with the lighting of fireworks (Celebration of Light).

### 2. Discussion

- 2.1 Current permitting for the discharge of fireworks requires receipt of an application 15 days before the date of discharge. Dependant on location and possible impacts to surrounding neighbors, a request to notify adjacent properties may be required prior to approval.
- 2.2 The current permitting process is for use in any celebration, tradition or event that is currently not exempted. Adding additional days as exemptions may result in complaints from residents who do not observe these celebrations.
- 2.3 To date, Municipal Law Enforcement has not received applications for discharging fireworks for Diwali. There have been a few inquiries in regard to discharging for Diwali and individuals were advised of the permitting process at that time.

### **3. Concurrence**

This report has been reviewed by the Director of Emergency and Fire Services who concurs with the recommendation.

### **4. Conclusion**

It is respectfully recommended that this report is received for information and the existing permit process used to accommodate residents that want to discharge fireworks on Diwali.

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Staff Contact: Duncan Anderson, Manager Municipal Law Enforcement, 905-623-3379 Ext 2110 or danderson@clarington.net.

Attachments:

Not Applicable

Interested Parties:

Pranay Kumar Gunti