

CITY OF ONTARIO

Agenda Report
July 7, 2026

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/DISCUSSION/ACTION

Department: Fire Department
Prepared By: Sagar Patel
Staff Member Presenting: Mike Gerken, Fire
Chief
Approved By: 

Submitted To: Council/OHA
Approved: _____
Continued To: _____
Denied: _____
Item No: 17

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF TO SECTION 4-21.05 (A) ADMINISTRATIVE FINES, OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO MANAGING THE CITY'S RESPONSE TO FIREWORKS FEES AND FINES

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council amend Section 4-21.05(a) Administrative Fines of the Ontario Municipal code relating to fines for illegal use of fireworks, pyrotechnic devices, explosives, destructive devices or their components and establishing the amount of the fees and fines set forth in this section shall be specified in the City Fee Schedule, which may only be revised by a duly-adopted resolution of the City Council.

THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL GOALS ARE BEING ACHIEVED:

Maintain the Current High Level of Public Safety

Operate in a Businesslike Manner

FISCAL IMPACT: This recommended action amends the fee structure from Section 4-21.5(a) of the Ontario Municipal Code and provides for the revenue fee structure to be included in the City Fee Schedule that will be presented to City Council in separate actions for consideration approved by Resolution.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: The Ontario City Council is committed to safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and maintaining a high quality of life throughout the community. As such, it is the City's priority to protect its residents from activities such as the use of illegal fireworks.

Illegal fireworks pose a significant threat to public safety and community well-being. Their use increases the risk of residential, commercial, and vegetation fires. Fireworks-related incidents can result in serious injuries, property damage, and disruptions to critical infrastructure. Additionally, the illegal use of fireworks places increased demands on fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel, requiring the diversion of resources from other emergency incidents and public safety priorities.

Beyond the immediate safety concerns, illegal fireworks negatively impact the quality of life for residents by generating excessive noise, disturbing families, seniors, and individuals with medical

conditions, and triggering stress and anxiety for veterans and others affected by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Fireworks also contribute to environmental pollution through smoke, litter, and chemical residue, while causing distress to pets and wildlife. Collectively, these impacts create substantial financial and operational costs for the community and underscore the importance of continued enforcement, public education, and prevention efforts.

In an effort to deter the use of illegal fireworks, on Tuesday June 23, 2026, City Council directed Staff to create an escalating fee structure of \$1,000 for a first citation, \$2,000 for a second citation, and \$3,000 for a third citation and to be specified in the City Fee Schedule, which may only be revised by a duly-adopted resolution of the City Council.