



Bharat Mata Mandir

भारत माता मन्दिर

Sant Shree Dyaneshwar Gurukul of Canada

November 25, 2022

City Clerk's Office

City of Brampton

2 Wellington Street West,

Brampton, Ontario L6Y 4R2

cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca

I, Jeff Lal, President of Bharat Mata Mandir, Brampton, would like to take this opportunity to cite my reasons for categorically objecting to Brampton Regional Councillor Dennis Keenan's Motion to Unanimously Pass a complete ban of Personal Fireworks in City of Brampton. Our objection centers on the ambiguity regarding to whom the ban applies i.e. what is the meaning of and to who exactly does the word Personal apply.

Fireworks are one of the largest and most significant traditional rites of Diwali Religious Celebrations, and so apply to all adherents of Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism.

On Monday October 24, 2022 we saw the celebration of Diwali around the world, and hence, significant parts of the Greater Toronto Area, (the GTA). We understand that many were not happy to with the "excessive noise" plus fire safety concerns regarding "discarded piles of left-over props and similar garbage" -- the two major concerns which the ban was proposed in the hopes to alleviate them.

This past Wednesday Brampton City Council voted unanimously on a motion that would effectively ban fireworks in Brampton unless authorized as being used for specific business purposes or celebration of National Canadian Holidays. Reactions have been mixed; many support the ban but others claim that it unfairly targets Brampton's South Asian community.

Why can't we at least attempt a compromise which does not appear to be targeting South Asian Communities or any Religious organizations for that matter. Asians can certainly hold fireworks at religious locations (i.e. places where only Religious business take place) such as Temples and Gurudwaras. Such Authorized Business Functions can easily be held in a responsible manner and any violation impinging on the general public can be rectified by assigning someone to be accountable for such violations and in a manner which would not be considered discriminatory either favouring or punishing any specific community.

www.bharatmatamandir.ca

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My underlying personal motive is primarily to represent my particular Community, South Asian religious adherents, to follow up with Mayor Brown at upcoming meetings respecting several related but not discussed issues, as well as a few impending issues that still must be addressed immediately. Such issues might include the skyrocketing crime rate and problems caused by non-inclusiveness of communities with mixed ethnic backgrounds.

Ours is a sincere request to all Brampton City Councillors, to set aside individual differences and work diligently with all cultures existing in any community, to collectively steer Brampton to new heights and restore its reputation.

Yours Truly,

Jeff Lal, President

Bharat Mata Mandir, Brampton

Per – **Brampton Regional Councillor Gurpartap Singh Toor: Gurpartap.Toor@Brampton.com**

“Acknowledging that change takes time, the increased fines for possession and distribution of fireworks as well as the enforcement blitz ‘for this coming’ New Year’s Eve, show that the city (Brampton) is **steadfast in our stance to eliminate personal fireworks**. We also acknowledge that fireworks are a special part of many holidays and are looking to a an annual Diwali event, similar to our current Canada Day and New Year’s Eve events, with City-run fireworks.”



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