



*Council*

November 5, 2007

Ms. Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk  
Town of Markham Anthony Roman Centre  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor and Members of Markham Council,

As the owner of Rocket Fireworks, a respected mobile vendor of family fireworks in Markham, I was troubled to learn that the General Committee rejected recommendations made by Markham Town Staff to reduce the distance separation requirements for mobile vendors.

We currently own two legal trailers, equipped with two exits and fire extinguishers that are used to sell family fireworks for Victoria Day and Canada Day. We abide by all of the requirements in the town by-law and the Federal Explosives Act. We have never had any complaints or charges against us and we intend to maintain our perfect record for years to come. Our staff are highly trained professionals who provide expert advice to our customers. As a result, we have attained a number of loyal clientele who purchase our products year after year because they are confident in our sales and service.

The biggest problem that we encounter each year is finding a suitable location to sell our fireworks. The current distance separation requirements of 40 meters from an occupied building and 20 meters from any road or occupied parking space are extreme and prohibitive. These distance separation requirements force us to pay additional costs associated with renting larger areas. We are also forced to use locations that are not as visible to the public, thereby affecting our marketing strategy.

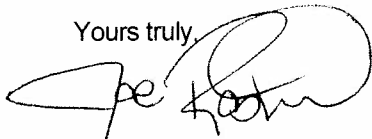
The recommended changes to the distance separation made by Markham staff would maintain safety and would allow us to place our trailers in locations that are more suitable for selling fireworks.

As a result of the Committee's decision to reject the reduced distance separation requirements, we may be forced to relocate to another municipality. I am confused as to what rationale was used to reject your staff's recommendation. I can't help but think that this decision was based solely on reducing competition, which is a very disappointing conclusion.

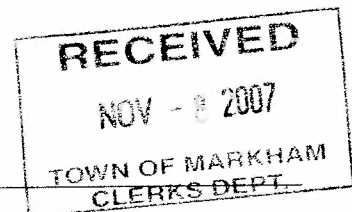
I am therefore asking that you reconsider the decision to maintain the existing distance separation requirements in favour of a more suitable distance separation as recommended by town staff, of 20 meters from an occupied building and 10 meters from any road or occupied parking space.

If you have any questions about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Joe Rastin



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