



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018-6025

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Phone: 610-865-7100

Fax: 610-865-7257

TDD: 610-865-7257

www.bethlehem-pa.gov

rdonchez@bethlehem-pa.gov

Robert J. Donchez
Mayor

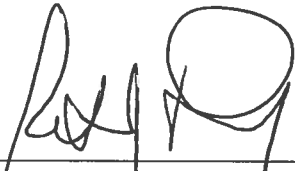
From: Robert J. Donchez, Mayor

To: President Waldron

Date: July 6, 2020

Re: proposed Resolution Urging Repeal of Fireworks Law

Please find attached a resolution urging our state legislators to repeal the fireworks law passed in 2017. Please consider placing this on tomorrow' Council agenda.



Robert J. Donchez
Mayor

CC: City Council
A. Karras

RESOLUTION 2020-

Resolution seeking to ban the sale and use of consumer grade fireworks in Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted Act 43, HB 542 in 2017 legalizing the sale and use of certain "consumer grade fireworks";

WHEREAS, the intention of the Commonwealth in enacting the legislation was to raise revenue to help relieve the state budget deficit;

WHEREAS, today Pennsylvania residents are permitted to purchase fireworks that were banned for decades;

WHEREAS, despite significant legal constraints in the legislation on the use of consumer grade fireworks, the constraints have proven to be unenforceable because too many Pennsylvania residents break the law with frequent use in legally prohibited areas, such as in densely populated residential areas, at random times and especially around holidays such as December 31 and July 4;

WHEREAS, while the legal and illegal use of consumer fireworks may have realized revenue for the Commonwealth, it has forced a dangerous nuisance on too many residents;

WHEREAS, the nuisance caused by the legal and illegal use of consumer fireworks in Pennsylvania includes but is not limited to harm to public health, injuries and death to people, acoustic and visual shock and anxiety to people and animals (especially domestic pets) and destruction of property;

WHEREAS, the revenue benefit to the state and local municipalities from the sale of consumer fireworks is now proven to be far outweighed by the harm from their use to the quality of life of residents and their pets;

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Act 43, HB 542 of 2017, legalizing the sale and use of consumer grade fireworks, should be repealed.

NOW THEREFORE, UPON THE MAYOR'S REQUEST AND WITH UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF CITY COUNCIL, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should enact legislation, reversing the 2017 legislation, reinstating a ban on the sale and use of the consumer grade fireworks which are causing the dangerous and harmful nuisances described in this Resolution throughout the City of Bethlehem, in nearby municipalities and in the entire Commonwealth; effectively banning firecrackers, Roman Candles, bottle rockets, and similar products; and

AND FURTHER THAT, this Resolution be sent to the City's local state government representatives, to the Governor and to the Commonwealth House of Representatives and the Senate so that the findings and wishes of the City are made clear to all those in associated with the Commonwealth's government who are empowered to grant the necessary relief to the Pennsylvania's residents and pets.

Sponsored by: _____

ADOPTED by Council this _____ day of, 2020.

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk