

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: New Year's Eve Fireworks

Date Prepared: November 11, 2020

Report To: Regular Meeting of Council

Councillor and Role: Councillor Shawn Skinner, Special Events Regulatory Committee

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required: Approval from Council to hold New Year's Eve fireworks at 8pm.

Discussion – Background and Current Status: In 2019, the City of St. John's introduced a series of family friendly New Year's Eve activities. The events offered throughout the day included family swims at City pools, gym activities at Paul Reynolds Community Centre, and a skating party at The Loop. The evening was capped off with a Countdown Celebration and Fireworks show at 8:00pm at Quidi Vidi Lake. The Countdown Celebration was hosted through a partnership with NTV and included a DJ as well as an NTV personality hosting lakeside. NTV filmed the event and broadcast the fireworks during their televised New Year's Eve (midnight) show.

Given the estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people in attendance in and around the Clancey Drive/Carnell Drive area, the move to an 8pm fireworks show was deemed a success. This number reflected those attending the Countdown Celebration and did not include those gathered in vehicles around the Quidi Vidi/Pleasantville area. In comparison, the midnight fireworks in 2018 drew approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people.

Continuing with the success of the 2019 fireworks, and keeping COVID-19 guidelines in mind, the City proposes 2020 New Year's Eve fireworks show time of 8pm.

Although current Provincial Government guidelines does not recommend fireworks and gatherings of large groups; the City in consultation with St. John's Regional Fire Department, will introduce the following measures:

- In promotion of the event, recommend people remain in their vehicles to watch the fireworks.
- If citizens do leave their vehicle, or walk to the site, reminders to wear a mask and stay in your bubble.
- Cancellation of the DJ and Countdown Celebration event lakeside, thereby removing a public event gathering point on Carnell Drive.

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City staff are working to develop a list of activities families can participate in during the day, however there will be no City hosted events such as gym activities and skating parties. Staff are also working with a media partner to film the 8pm fireworks, which will be shown during a New Year's Eve (midnight) show.

It is felt that the 8pm fireworks show will once again offer an activity for families to participate in during challenging pandemic times.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Working with a media partner to bring the fireworks show to all in Newfoundland and Labrador.
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans: A Connected City - Develop and deliver programs, services and public spaces that build safe, healthy, and vibrant communities.
4. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A
5. Privacy Implications: N/A
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
7. Human Resource Implications: N/A
8. Procurement Implications: N/A
9. Information Technology Implications: N/A
10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 2020 New Year's Eve fireworks, with a firing time of 8pm.

Prepared by: Jennifer Langmead – Supervisor, Tourism & Events

Approved by: Tanya Haywood – Deputy City Manager, Community Services

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	New Years Eve Fireworks.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 12, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tanya Haywood - Nov 12, 2020 - 9:50 AM