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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 8/11/2020 3:27:01 PM

Subject: Ban on use/retail of bear bangers

Attachments: Information Bulletin: City bans the sale and use of bear bangers.msg

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to a question we have received regarding communication and enforcement of the recently-approved ban on the use and sale of bear bangers.

The by-law to ban the sale and discharge of Exploding Animal Deterrents (EADs) – most commonly referred to as bear bangers – was effective upon approval by council.

Licensing and policy staff developed a communications plan to advise residents and retailers of the ban on the sale and discharge of bear bangers. Last week, staff directly emailed all retailers who were included in the stakeholder consultation, along with additional locations identified as probable retailers of bear bangers. The attached media information bulletin was released on July 24, following the council meeting. Work is well underway to update our website, and a social media campaign will follow, both planned for the next 2 weeks.

Staff continue to monitor the 311 complaints related to the discharge of bear bangers in Vancouver. Below is a summary of the most up-to-date 311 complaint data reported:

Month (2020)	Number of complaints
April	0
May	96
June	81
July	8 (5 more since July 8 as reported in the Council Report)
August	2

Staff have confirmed with VPD and VFRS that they are actively educating their teams on the new by-law and ability of their members to enforce through the Ticket Offence by-law.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

Paul

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Waututh peoples.

From: "City of Vancouver Communications Office" <CityofVancouver.CommunicationsOffice@vancouver.ca>
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Date: 7/24/2020 9:49:12 AM
Subject: Information Bulletin: City bans the sale and use of bear bangers

City of Vancouver
Information bulletin
July 24, 2020

City bans the sale and use of bear bangers

To protect the safety of residents in Vancouver and reduce unwelcomed noise, City Council has voted that bear bangers and other exploding animal deterrents may no longer be sold or used within the city limits.

These regulations are in response to the increased inappropriate use of these devices within Vancouver and come into effect immediately, so anyone now selling or using these devices in Vancouver may be subject to a ticket carrying a fine of \$1000.

Vancouver residents who use bear bangers and other exploding animal deterrents in the wilderness outside of the City may continue to purchase them online or in neighbouring municipalities.

Upon direction from Council, staff will further consult with the appropriate stakeholders to consider a possible permitting system, for the sale of bear bangers to professionals who use them as part of their jobs.

Increase in complaints

In April 2020, the City began to receive an increase in complaints about explosive sounds heard throughout downtown and surrounding areas. In the first six months of the 2020, the City's 311 service logged 180 complaints and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) reported over 360 calls. There is also evidence from the VPD that exploding animal deterrents have been modified for use as improvised explosive devices, posing a threat to public safety.

City staff consulted with a wide range of stakeholders as part of the development of these new regulations, including retailers, suppliers, industry associations, outdoor recreation clubs, conservation groups, The BC Conservation Officer Services and the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals.

More Information

Exploding animal deterrents such as bear bangers, air bangers and seal bombs are a hand-held, loud, exploding device used to deter wildlife in remote areas.

The loud noise can keep animals from approaching, but also carry the risk of frightening wildlife toward the user, and are a potential fire hazard in dry conditions.

Under the Federal Explosives Act, using exploding animal deterrents such as bear bangers for anything other than personal protection from wildlife is illegal.

- Parks Canada has banned the use of bear bangers in federal parks. They also recommend a protocol of alerting wildlife to human presence by travelling in groups and speaking loudly, singing or carrying a noise making device like pebbles in a can, and carrying bear spray for close encounters
- BC Parks and the BC Conservation Officer Services recommend a bear deterrent protocol similar to Parks Canada, including using bear spray and other non-exploding deterrents.

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Thank you,
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