

**City of Cape Town  
Press Release  
8 April 2010**

**City urges residents to comment on change of designated firework sites**

Residents who would like to have a say as to the location of designated sites for setting off fireworks must remember to give their opinion at their local sub-council offices before the end of April 2010.

The City of Cape Town has decided to review the designated areas in the city from which residents may, with permission from the City, discharge fireworks bought at approved shops. According to the Chairperson of the Safety and Security Portfolio Committee, Councillor Carin Brynard, these sites are being reviewed because they were designated some time ago and may not be suitable anymore.

"The City has limited legislative powers when it comes to setting off fireworks because only the National Government can ban fireworks completely. The City has taken various suggestions and pleas from the public into consideration and is the only metro in South Africa where legislation exists to make the discharge of fireworks an offence except from designated areas or from areas where special permission was obtained through the City's events office", said Councillor Brynard.

She said the City has given due consideration to the positive and negative effects of firework displays and realised that it is far better to allow firework displays only from designated areas in order to protect the city's residents and animals. "In addition to fireworks being painful and upsetting to animals, they are also potential fire hazards," she added.

Due to property development, some of the currently designated sites may have changed in character to either residential or a combination of residential and business, thus rendering them no longer feasible or appropriate.

The City therefore initiated a round of public participation through local sub-council offices to give residents the opportunity to present their opinions on suitable sites to discharge fireworks from within their local sub-council boundaries. "Residents who would like to comment on possible new sites or the scrapping of existing ones should do so through their local sub-council offices before the end of April. The opinion of the majority will be the deciding factor," said Councillor Brynard.

The City's new proposed animal by-law, which has undergone two long and extensive public participation processes, will also serve before the Safety and Security Portfolio Committee shortly. All comments received from the

public have been assessed and those found to be practical and suitable have been incorporated into the by-law.

This by-law was drafted with the aim of not only improving existing by-laws, but also to consolidate the number of different by-laws of the previous administrations, creating one by-law for the whole city. Some of the suggested improvements made include better protection of animals against fireworks, better protection for cart-horses, stricter conditions for kennels and catteries, large fines of up to R20 000 for dog-fighting, as well as the removal of dog faeces from public places.

All views and opinions are currently under scrutiny and a decision will be reached following the Portfolio Committee meeting. Thereafter, the by-law will be sent to full Council for approval.

Ends

Issued by the Communication Department, City of Cape Town. For media enquiries please contact Carin Brynard, Chairperson: Safety and Security Portfolio Committee on 021 981 4737.