

May 26, 2021

Dear Mr. Dickson,

I recently was able to get the letter below published in the Buffalo News and feel very strongly about regulations around fireworks. They terrorize our pets, do considerable damage to the environment start to finish, and can trigger panic attacks, flashbacks, and increase the level of trauma Veterans are working to recover from.

A lawsuit is taking place as we speak around this very topic in Hamburg between the Avanti Hotel and a Veteran who lives right by. The use fireworks in wedding celebrations and he has tried to persuade them to stop for 10 years to no avail. This is troubling, his health is declining terribly because of these events and the pursuit of money and temporal pleasure over people health and wellbeing is atrocious. Please consider regulations that would save our environment and its people.

Here is the letter I had in the Buffalo News

Many thanks

Julia Kress

As the Fourth of July and other summer events where fireworks are often used, it is important to one, consider where we are as a planet with global warming, two, also consider the Covid pandemic and the delicate state of health our communities are in. The chemicals that are dispersed by firework explosions are easily inhaled and can irritate the lungs and damage sensitive organs creating a pathway for disease and disruption in the human body.

Fireworks are obviously dangerous, but blowing off fingers and burning skin, however, very rarely does it make the news about the day after with the increase in breathing problems and asthma attacks. Also, the permanent damage to our air, water and soil through the mining of the metals to make them and the toxic chemicals released in the smoke from them such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and carbon monoxide that all contribute to climate change. Pollution from fireworks can travel far from the original place they were ignited, by air currents, water flow, and fire.

Fireworks also hurt the ones we love mentally and emotionally. Pets fear for their lives and try to find a safe hiding space and, our veterans who "American's" claim they love dearly are often negatively affected by the sudden loud explosions. I had first-hand experience with the trauma this caused with my grandfather who was a WW II vet, obviously suffered from un-treated PTSD, would plug his ears and rock in a chair till it was all over.

This is not a healthy way to celebrate anything, loud explosions that damage our environment, our health and mental well-being.

Let's consider what we are celebrating and how it can contribute instead of contaminating our Life on this planet.