

430 Carpenter Lane
Phila., PA 19119

Dec. 9, 2021

Dear Pennsylvania legislators,

I have lived in the West Mount airy neighborhood of Philadelphia since 2008. I love it. I never had much problem with fireworks other than the occasional explosion around Fourth of July. However, starting in the summer of 2020 things began to seem totally out of control. The explosions and fireworks started around Memorial Day and then seem to continue every single night through and beyond Labor Day.

The reason this was so problematic for me is that I have a small dog who is terrified of fireworks. She has been on every single prescription medication possible, including Trazodone, Valium, and a gel we were supposed to rub on her gums which was almost impossible to administer. We tried veterinarian suggested over-the-counter treatments such as cannabis based derivative chews and oils that were supposed to be calming and purchased a device that released a fragrance that was also supposed to be calming. We have a thunder shirt that does nothing, we have taken her into the basement, we purchased a white noise machine and run the air conditioner at full blast with the exhaust fan to try to drown out the sound. Nothing worked. She shakes and trembles and paws at us and drools for hours on end. I can't imagine what it does to her nervous system. It is a torture to watch and there's nothing that we can do to soothe her.

The constant explosions from the fireworks also gave me and many of my neighbors a sense of lawlessness. It was not always clear when the sounds were fireworks explosions or gun fire. Some people called the police believing that the sounds were the gun shots and I know on July 4, 2020 the 911 system was completely over whelmed,

I found out mid-summer 2020 that there was a reason for the sudden increase in fireworks; had been a change in legislation. It's been a nightmare since. Please act to change the existing legislation to make the sale of fireworks in Pennsylvania illegal. I know the use of fireworks is already highly regulated but those rules are almost completely unenforceable unless the police catch someone in the act.

Thank you,

Shanna Halpern

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