

**Steven Braatz**

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**From:** Joel Tilleson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 10:15 AM  
**To:** Steven Braatz  
**Subject:** Fw: Gov Affairs Meeting: Vote No on Graduation Fireworks

Hi Steve, please add this to the agenda packet, thanks.

Ald. Joel Tilleson  
City of Wauwatosa - 5th District

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**From:** BJ Ermenc <bjehlaamke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2023 8:24 PM  
**To:** Joel Tilleson; Margaret Arney  
**Cc:** Sean Lowe  
**Subject:** [External] Gov Affairs Meeting: Vote No on Graduation Fireworks

Hello,

I am writing this as a constituent and active voter in the City of Wauwatosa. This is not an official communication from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, although I am a member of that group.

Please do not support the request for fireworks at the two Wauwatosa graduation events. Why?

1. Where are the funds coming from? My understanding is that we have limited funds at our disposal, especially after passing much needed salary increases.
2. Fireworks, with their loud explosions and bright lights (similar to strobe lights) are injurious to graduates and attendees with intellectual and sensory disabilities, autism, hearing loss, and people who suffer from PTSD.
3. In light of Tosa's strategic goals of inclusivity, fireworks are not justified nor appreciated.

4. This is an example of something that has never been done before for good reason, and should not be done now. Adding fireworks would be a non-inclusive and even damaging precedent to set.

5. My understanding is that this will be the first year that people with mobility impairments will be able to travel the same path as able-bodied graduates thanks to the purchase of new ramps. Let's not undercut this excellent step forward by ignoring the needs of people with other types of disabilities.

I plan to attend this meeting via Zoom and ask that public input be allowed so I may state these reasons for everyone to hear and to be part of the public record.

Thank you,  
BJ Ermenc

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BJ (Elizabeth) Ermenc (she/her)

*Advocate - Speaker - Catalyst*

Member:

Hearing Loss Association of America

Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition

Wauwatosa Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Wisconsin Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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