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Fireworks  
City Manager's Office  
April 19, 2022

# Background



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# Councilmember Requested Item from the December 21, 2021 meeting

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- Mayor Pro Tem Bacerra and Councilmembers Mendoza and Phan sponsored the following discussion item:
  - **Discuss and Consider Directing City Manager to Direct Staff to Introduce an Ordinance for a Ban on the Use, Possession and Sale of All Fireworks**
- There was consensus among the City Council to have the Charter Review Ad Hoc Committee consider a Charter amendment banning all fireworks in Santa Ana.



# Legislative history



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# Santa Ana Municipal Code

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- April 16, 1984: The City Council adopted Ordinance NO. NS-1727, adopting the 1982 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code as amended.
- Highlights:
  - Defines and prohibits “dangerous fireworks.”
  - Defines “safe and sane fireworks” and expressly allows discharging as specified.
  - Sales and discharging are allowed during the following times:
    - July 1<sup>st</sup>: 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.
    - July 2<sup>nd</sup>: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
    - July 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
    - July 4<sup>th</sup>: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - Permitting process for fireworks booths; capped at 85; lottery; fee
  - Regulations for temporary stands
  - Public display permits
  - Storage and disposal
  - Discharge (cannot discharge fireworks toward any other person or in any other manner which threatens the safety of persons or property)





# Resolution setting an administrative fine

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- On May 17, 2016, the City Council adopted a resolution establishing a fine in the amount of \$1,000 for violating fireworks regulations.



# Fireworks booths



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Year	Electrical Permits Issued
2017	70
2018	49
2019	67
2020	58
2021	53





# Operating costs associated with fireworks



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# Police overtime costs

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Year	Operational Period	Total Overtime Hours	Total Overtime Costs
2017		313	\$22,536
2018	6/30 – 7/4	152	\$10,944
2019	6/29 – 7/5	45	\$3,975
2020	6/29 – 7/5	1,234.5	\$113,574
2021	6/28 – 7/5	616	\$59,203



# Fire calls for service

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Year	Calls for Service
2017	74
2018	75
2019	69
2020	62
2021	55



# Fireworks booths

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Year	Electrical Permit Fees Received
2017	\$ 6,643.70
2018	\$ 4,806.90
2019	\$ 6,827.97
2020	\$ 6,142.78
2021	\$ 5,819.40



# Environmental impacts



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- The Federal Hazardous Substances Act classifies fireworks as hazardous because they can cause fire, injury, and death.
  - Fireworks emit particulate matter (PM).
    - Breathing in PM adversely affects the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.
    - Fine PM increases significantly on July 4.





# Fireworks used for cultural and religious celebrations



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- Cultural:
    - Fourth of July (United States)
    - Fiestas Patrias (Spanish-speaking countries)
    - Lunar New Year (East and Southeast Asian countries)
    - Lantern Festival and Spring Festival (China)
    - New Year's celebrations (worldwide)
  - Religious:
    - Diwali (India)
    - Taoism (China)



# How are we responding to fireworks today?



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- **Reporting**

- Tip line: (714) 245-8771
- Email: [reportfireworks@santa-ana.org](mailto:reportfireworks@santa-ana.org)
- mySantaAna app
- Website

- **Enforcement**

- Santa Ana Police Department responds to reports of illegal fireworks and of discharge of safe and sane fireworks outside of allowed time.

- **Fire safety**

- OCFA responds to emergency calls accordingly.

- **Education**

- Cross-departmental outreach campaign that includes Police and Fire
- Examples: public service announcement videos, social media campaigns, website, printed fliers



# Options



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1. Direct staff to return with an **ordinance prohibiting fireworks for City Council consideration.**
  2. Direct staff to prepare documents to present an **ordinance prohibiting fireworks to the voters.**
  3. Take no action.







Questions?



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