



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: JUNE 20, 2017

DEPARTMENT: SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM: ADELE FRESÉ, CHIEF OF POLICE
EDMOND A. RODRIGUEZ, FIRE CHIEF

BY: SAMUEL KLEMEK, FIRE MARSHAL

TITLE: SALINAS POLICE AND FIRE 2017 FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT AND RESPONSE PLAN

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

No motion is required with this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council receive this Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Measure C, an initiative measure approved by the voters of Salinas in June 2016, allows for the sale and use of “Safe and Sane” fireworks within the city. One component of the measure requires the Salinas Fire Department and the Salinas Police Department to present a plan outlining public education and enforcement efforts to address illegal fireworks use during the Fourth of July holiday. The plan is multifaceted and includes education, enforcement, and response elements.

BACKGROUND:

As the City Council is aware, the sale and the use of “Safe and Sane Fireworks” was eliminated for the 2016 Fireworks season when the City Council took action to prohibit the sale and the use of “Safe and Sane Fireworks”. However, as a result of the voter initiative approved in June 2016, “Safe and Sane” fireworks may be sold and used within the city’s limits.

DISCUSSION:

Measure C, which permitted the sale of “Safe and Sane” fireworks, was approved by 58% of voters during the June primary elections in 2016. Measure C overturned a ban on all fireworks, which was established through City Council Ordinance in 2015. Fireworks that fly or explode, are not considered “Safe and Sane” and continue to be illegal within the City of Salinas.

During the weeks leading up to and including the Fourth of July holiday, the SFD and SPD will be conducting additional fire prevention and law enforcement activities to help educate the public to prevent fireworks related fires and burn injuries. Illegal fireworks will be confiscated and the owners of real estate where illegal fireworks were discharged will receive a notice or citation.

The plan established by the Salinas Fire Department (SFD) and Salinas Police Department (SPD) to address the discharge of illegal fireworks during the lead up to Fourth of July employs a multifaceted approach to prevention efforts and enforcement and is as follows:

1. Provide for the safety of the public and first responders.

We will provide for the safety of the public and first responders through increased staffing and heightened awareness of illegal fireworks discharges. As in previous years, augmented fire crews will perform citywide patrols to address witnessed or reported occurrences of unsafe or illegal fireworks use.

2. Prevent the use of illegal fireworks use through public outreach activities.

We will work to prevent the use of illegal fireworks through public education efforts which will include:

- Large signs with safety messages will be posted on fireworks stands.
- A combination of digital brochures, printed materials, or DVDs will be distributed to schools and fireworks stands with safety messages.
- Newspaper ads with a fireworks safety message will be placed in conjunction with the sale of fireworks.
- Reminder letters will be sent to city addresses where illegal firework discharges were witnessed last year.
- Promotion of the www.salinasthosefireworks.com website to (1) educate the public on the penalties related to the use of illegal fireworks; and (2) provide information to facilitate reporting of illegal firework discharge anonymously.
- Press releases sent to local news outlets and social media to spread the word regarding the hazards of all fireworks and the penalties that accompany the use of illegal fireworks.

3. Enforce the fire code with the support of law enforcement agencies.

We will enforce the fire code with the support of our law enforcement partners:

- We will confiscate illegal fireworks and issue a citation to the user.
- Notices or citations will be issued to property owners where illegal fireworks were discharged in accordance with Salinas Muni. Code Ord. (Social Host Liability Sec. 13a-19.100).
- Four (4) additional SPD police officers will be assigned to assist fire crews to give warnings, issue citations, and confiscate illegal fireworks.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

The objectives of the SPD and SFD's plan for the Fourth of July are to support the goals of the City Council as follows:

- We will mitigate hazards and protect life to ensure a safe, livable community.
- We will protect property to promote economic diversity and prosperity.
- We will prevent the use of illegal fireworks to support an effective, sustainable government.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Costs to cover the 2017 emergency response and enforcement efforts for illegal fireworks will be paid through the 7% surcharge recovered from the sale of fireworks.

ATTACHMENTS:

Administrative Report PPT.