



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2017

DEPARTMENT: POLICE and FIRE DEPARTMENTS

FROM: SAMUEL KLEMEK, BATTALION CHIEF/FIRE MARSHAL

TITLE: ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT ON 2017 FIREWORKS ACTIVITIES

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

No action of the City Council is required or requested for this item. This item is an informational report from the Fire Department and the Police Department on 2017 4th of July fireworks activities which is required by Section 13A-22 of the Salinas Municipal Code.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council receive this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In June of 2016, the electorate of the City of Salinas voted to amend Chapter 13A of the Salinas Municipal Code to repeal a ban on the sale/use of “Safe-and-Sane” fireworks. The amendment also included additional provisions for statistical reporting to the City Council to aid in the evaluation of current outreach and enforcement efforts.

The use of illegal fireworks continues to burden City Police and Fire resources, as well as County 9-1-1 dispatchers that are operating at near historic lows. Through comparison of each year’s statistics, the pattern of increased calls for service is re-affirmed. Complaints from a frustrated population are voluminous. Additionally, SPD and SFD resources confiscated an estimated 200 pounds of illegal fireworks this season. This report outlines 2017 fireworks statistics.

BACKGROUND:

The following statistics have been captured for the period of June 15 through July 15 for the 2017 fireworks season, which highlight the dramatic call volume and resources required to provide emergency response services to our community.

Salinas Police Department

SPD had four additional officers dedicated to illegal fireworks enforcement between 15:00 and midnight on July 4th. There were 207 calls for Fireworks and over 400 total calls for police services received during the same period. SPD issued a total of 6 criminal citations for illegal fireworks.

Salinas Fire Department

During the holiday period 2017, SFD responded to a total of 244 emergency incidents. A breakdown of the fire incidents with previous years' data is provided as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Structure Fires:	8	2
Vegetation Fires:	12	30
Misc. Fires (Vehicles, dumpsters etc.):	10	12

Preliminary estimations indicate at least \$325,000 in property loss with over \$75,000 content loss from these incidents.

SFD increased the total fire suppression staffing on July 4th and added additional fire prevention staff for the period of July 1st through the 4th to respond to complaints and issue Notices of Violation.

During the period of June 15th through July 15, 2017, the Monterey County Emergency Communications Department received over 900 calls through the 911 system related to fireworks in the City of Salinas. Over 228 of those calls were generated on July 4th alone.

For the same period, the Fire Prevention Division received approximately 350 reports to the www.salinasfireworks.com website where citizens could email, text, or leave voicemail for illegal fireworks tips. Additionally, the “Nail em” “ smartphone application yielded approximately 60 additional tips.

SFD personnel directly issued four (4) citations for the use/possession of illegal fireworks and forty-seven (47) Notices of Violation (NOV's) were issued to addresses where illegal fireworks use was substantiated by more than one report from the various public reporting mediums. This was a newly adopted strategy for the 2017 season, and the impacts will take time to realize.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. 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). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a

significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Accepting this staff report supports the following initiatives of the City Council Strategic Plan:

- Safe Livable Community
- Quality of Life

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

As surcharge fee balances for outreach and enforcement were exhausted from previous years' expenses and the change in ordinance, staff worked with minimal financial resources available for these programs. With the return of the 7% surcharge collected on all safe-n-sane fireworks sales, it is anticipated that these revenues will be available for use on next years' campaign and offset enforcement related costs. As of this writing, staff has received the required financial reports from one of the two fireworks wholesalers. TNT Fireworks has reported the collection of surcharges in the amount of \$40,414.00, and awaits a report from Phantom Fireworks.

ATTACHMENTS:

2017 Fireworks PPT