

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/13/2019

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 06/20/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-1421

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Panorama City Neighborhood Council laments the lack of a citywide plan to address the dangers of illegal fireworks during the 2019 mid-year holiday period. The PCNC Board supports the 2018 motion to establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force if amended to require the creation of an annual fireworks plan, and to require the creation of a fireworks reporting tool in the MyLA311 application, as was described in the 2018 motion but never implemented. The PCNC Board supported this position by a unanimous vote of 14 yes, 0 no, with 0 abstentions at its meeting on June 13, 2019.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

PANORAMA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Renter Center-West (2021)
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PANORAMA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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ALTERNATES

Alt1 Regie Hernandez **Alt2** Sandra Ozuna
Alt3 Yesenia Puente **Alt4** (vacant)
Alt5 (vacant)

Youth Representative: (vacant)

City of Los Angeles
City Council c/o City Clerk, Room 395
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

Community Impact Statement
Council File 17-1421
Illegal Fireworks Task Force
Position: For - If Amended
June 13, 2019

Dear Public Safety Committee Members, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Los Angeles City Council members:

In February and May of 2018, we applauded the motion to establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force to report back in 60 days on issues related to illegal fireworks and steps that could be taken to curtail their use within the City.

On June 22, 2018, the "Public Safety Committee Resolution and Motion Related to Fireworks" Fact Sheet was added to the Council File. There is no indication that this was ever voted on by the Public Safety Committee or the Council. A cover letter from Police Chief Charlie Beck and Jorge R. Rodriguez, Commander, assistant Commanding Officer, Operations-Valley Bureau, describes it as "this year's Illegal Fireworks Reduction Plan".

Both the cover letter and the 2-page Resolution call for a streamlined method of reporting utilizing the My311AP. In detail, the Resolution contains this specific section:

"Mobile Reporting - Information Technology Agency, working in collaboration with Information Technology Division, determined that the most efficient manner for a mobile reporting capability was to redesign the capabilities of the existing platform MyLA311.

As such, with input from the police department, a questionnaire was developed to be added to the current application. The questions to be included are: Description of the suspect? How many? Do you have an exact location, or nearest cross street? Is the location of occurrence in a high fire hazard zone? Can you describe the fireworks (i.e. aerial or ground/sparklers)?

This streamlined approach will alleviate the vast amount of calls that go into the 911 system, which overloads communications Division and their emergency operators. Instead, the information will be sent electronically to the Department Operations Center (DOC) where the information can be reviewed. The DOC can forward the information to the appropriate Area or generate a call for service if necessary.”

This action was apparently never done. This year, there is no ability to report illegal fireworks online at all. The only method for reporting remains the LAPD non-emergency number, 877-ASK-LAPD, which is incapable of handling any volume of calls. More residents are using the social platform called NextDoor to communicate their concerns and vent frustrations, but this outlet cannot handle any real fireworks threat.

The recommendations of the Task Force are more than a year old, did little to reduce the onslaught of fireworks activity that year, and we anticipate feeling helpless to see any reduction in activity this year. Our Mission Division police officers, despite heroic efforts, confirm that there is little they can do to enforce the laws given the sheer numbers of large, booming sky displays as far as the eye can see. They have to actually witness use to cite, and engage in fruitless racing to a location to find no current activity, or worse, be attacked with anger and thrown bottles.

We urge the Task Force to conduct follow up surveys of activity, analyze methods that worked or didn't work, and update a Fireworks Plan on a yearly basis. We also ask that the plan to up-date the MyLA311 platform as requested last year be carried out. Or, if this was changed for a reason, please communicate that reason.

Respectfully submitted,
Panorama City Neighborhood Council