

FACT SHEET

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AND MOTION RELATED TO FIREWORKS

June 22, 2018

Background

In April of 2018, based on the increasing number of fireworks-related complaints from the community, the Public Safety Committee conducted a hearing asking the Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments about their efforts to mitigate such complaints and to improve the safety of the community. The Committee asked for a report outlining the public education campaign conducted, as well as, the steps necessary to enable mobile reporting of illegal fireworks through the MyLA311 application.

Mitigating Efforts

Education and Awareness

Working in collaboration with the non-profit organization MySafe:LA, a series of educational materials have been developed and distributed, including the following:

- **Banners:** 11' x 5' full color banners which are prominently displayed in front of all fire and police stations;
- **Flyers:** two sided and in full color, English on one side and Spanish on the other;
- **Posters:** full color, 24" x 36" distributed to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) "target schools," and to the business community;
- **Bumper stickers:** full color 3" x 9" distributed to students, teachers, and at public events;
- **PowerPoint:** fireworks presentation developed and in use by MySafe:LA at schools and community meetings;
- **Social media:** graphics and messages;
- **Website:** specific page, including features and information (<http://www.mysafela.org/fireworks-safety/>); and,
- **Public Service Announcements (PSA):** Video including Mayor Garcetti, Mike Feuer, LAPD Deputy Chief Kato, LAFD Chief Terrazas.

Activities conducted

- Presentations to LAUSD elementary and middle schools by MySafe:LA;
- Informational meetings with Neighborhood Councils, Home Owners Associations, Parks and Recreation facilities across the city;
- Conducted town hall meetings;
- Provided community members with information on locations of public shows;
- Distributed Website to all fire and police stations for dissemination and placement on their social media platforms; and,
- Distributed the PSA to media outlets for air time;

- Joint LAPD and LAFD Fireworks press conference, scheduled for July 2, 2018, 10 a.m., at Los Angeles City Fire Facility-Frank Hotchkins;
- July 20 “Fireworks Part 2” survey produced by MySafe:LA (will compare against 2017 survey);
- All LAPD divisions obtained their 2017 calls for fireworks related service and selected areas of concentration; and,
- Provided warning letters to residents, whose address was identified in previous incidents.

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.

Enforcement Guidelines

The preferred posture during the holiday is that of education and prevention; however, should that tactic prove insufficient, the LAPD will utilize an enforcement posture, geared toward those engaged in illegal activity.

- The Department will utilize Vice and Narcotics Enforcement Details during evening hours to address those participating in the use of illegal fireworks;
- Officers have received training by the Bomb Squad in the handling, storing and booking of fireworks.
- Since June 1st, Vice units have been monitoring the internet for illegal sales of fireworks, resulting in two significant seizures.

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