



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2018**  
**FROM: FIRE DEPARTMENT      WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH AND ARSON TASK FORCE  
RECOGNITION**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive a presentation recognizing October as National Fire Prevention Month, and recognize the contributions of the Arson Task Force.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council receive and file this informational report.

## **BACKGROUND:**

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), many Americans underestimate their home fire risk, and fail to develop and/or practice a fire emergency escape plan. To increase public fire safety awareness, October is designated National Fire Prevention Month.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### ***National Fire Prevention Month***

In recognition of this important annual life safety campaign, the Riverside Fire Department (RFD) Arlington Fire Station No. 2, Magnolia Center Fire Station No. 3, University Fire Station No. 4 and Arlanza Fire Station No. 7 will be open to the public between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Residents are encouraged to stop by any of these four fire stations to meet the station crews, tour the station and enjoy light refreshments while learning to protect their homes and families from fire.

On Saturday, October 20, 2018, RFD will celebrate National Fire Prevention Month with a Public Safety Expo between 12 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., on Mission Inn Avenue, between Lime and Orange Streets. Visitors can tour the Downtown Fire Station and Fire Museum, view specialty fire apparatus up close, watch various rescue demonstrations and enjoy light refreshments. Children can explore the educational KidSafe Trailer, meet "Freddie the FireTruck" and enjoy fun hands-on activities while learning to be fire safe.

### ***Fire Investigations Unit Recognition***

In addition, RFD is pleased to give special recognition to the Arson Task Force, a specialized unit within the Fire Department. Some of the duties and responsibilities of the Arson Task Force include determining the cause and origin of fires, case management, evidence collection,

fireworks enforcement, conducting surveillance of illegal activity, case preparation for court, managing new hire backgrounds and maintaining mandatory training.

The Arson Task Force works collaboratively with Riverside County Arson Task Force, Riverside Police Department, Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. All members are certified as a Level 1 Investigator through the State of California and some are certified as Level II and consists of six shift investigators and one supervisor.

#### *Focus on Customer Service*

With a commitment to professional excellence, the members of the Arson Task Force provide quality service to the community to ensure the preservation of life and property and to assist in maintaining law and order. While performing their required responsibilities, the task force has pledged to:

1. Protect the rights of all persons
2. Strive to treat everyone with respect, dignity and compassion
3. Hold themselves to the highest ethical and professional standards
4. Be committed to personnel integrity
5. Provide leadership within the organization
6. Guarantee the best possible service to the residents in the community.

#### *Fireworks Enforcement Team*

All members of the Arson Task Force have played an instrumental role in participating in the enforcement efforts to reduce the use of illegal fireworks within the city. Members of the task force frequently attend community meetings to educate the public on the dangers involved with fireworks, issue citations and confiscate fireworks. They also administratively support the Fire Prevention Bureau by providing consistent oversight and direction towards firework enforcement and consults with local and state jurisdictions to ensure that the city is utilizing best practices for fireworks enforcement.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with acceptance of this informational report.

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Certified as to

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney