



FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT UPDATE AND OPTIONS TO CANCEL OR PROCEED WITH THE 2021 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORK SHOWS

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services
Department and Fire Department**

Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee

March 17, 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. For over 25 years, the Firework Shows have been a highlight of Riverside's Fourth of July Celebration, with shows at La Sierra Park and atop Mt. Rubidoux;
2. Coordination efforts between various departments: PRCSD, Riverside Fire and Police, Traffic Engineering, Arts and Cultural Affairs and Code Enforcement;
3. Annually, the firework shows attract over 100,000 families;



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BACKGROUND CONT'D

4. As a result of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and for public safety, the 2020 firework shows were cancelled; and
5. The Fireworks Taskforce continue to improve outreach efforts, Citywide, to ensure the public understands that fireworks are illegal in the City of Riverside.



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FIREWORKS TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

1. Task Force consists of members from RFD, RPD & Code Enforcement.
2. Task Force monitors incoming 3-1-1 texts and dispatch traffic to assist in enforcement.
3. Task Force patrols the City specifically to enforce the City's firework ordinance.



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9-1-1 FIREWORKS CALLS

Year	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	4 DAY TOTAL
2016	78	132	188	307	705
2017	82	86	138	304	610
2018	58	27	77	403	565
2019	19	28	77	495	619
2020	84	132	243	740	1,199



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STATISTICS : JUNE 19-JULY 4

Year	Calls For Service	Fires	Injuries	Citations	Patrol 311 Contacts	Fireworks Confiscated
2017	746	15	1	139	304	805 lbs.
2018	599	10	0	70	337	630 lbs.
2019	693	16	0	131	314	3,856 lbs.
2020	1156	18	1	108	295	893 lbs.



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ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS 2019/2020

Administrative Citation Status 2019	Quantity	Payment Received	Administrative Citation Status 2020	Quantity	Payment Received
Paid in full	36	\$13,000	Paid in full	19	\$22,962
Payment Plan Set up	35 (31 still active)	on-going	Payment Plan Set up	14 (14 still active)	on-going
Appealed	10	on-going	Appealed	3	on-going
Dismissed	1	\$0	Dismissed	0	\$0
Sent to Collections	0	on-going	Sent to Collections	Not available	No Citations were sent to collections
Total	145	\$49,923	Total	108	\$26,115



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ENHANCED 2021 FIREWORKS PROGRAM

- 1. Press Conference:** Prior to the holiday, the Fireworks Task Force will participate in a press conference regarding the City's stance on fireworks.
- 2. Enforcement Activities:** RPD and RFD will send out and hand deliver warning letters to persons known of utilizing fireworks to advise that fireworks are illegal and there will be a \$1,000 fine if caught using, selling and/or possessing them.
- 3. Marketing and Outreach:** RFD, RPD, Code and Riverside TV developed new fireworks Public Safety Announcements (PSA's) for television and Social Media.



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ENHANCED 2021 FIREWORKS PROGRAM CONT'D

4. **Staffing:** RFD, RPD and Code will have dedicated personnel on duty at various times during the holiday season. These personnel will be specifically committed to enforcing the fireworks ordinance.
5. **Communications:** The 3-1-1 app, Emergency (911) and Non-Emergency dispatch numbers (951) 354-2007 will be monitored and utilized to assist the task force with patrol efforts.



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MT. RUBIDOUX AND LA SIERRA STAGING



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2019 EXPENDITURES

(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at La Sierra Park	\$20,000
(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at Mt. Rubidoux	\$30,000
PRCSD Personnel/Non-Personnel Cost	\$25,000
Riverside Police Department	\$17,945
Riverside Fire Department	\$14,000
TOTAL	\$106,945

Departments involved in the production of the Fourth of July shows included Riverside Police and Fire Departments, Arts and Cultural Affairs, Code Enforcement, Traffic Control and PRCSD



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2021 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES

(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at La Sierra Park	\$25,000
PRCSD Personnel/Non-Personnel Cost	\$9,000
Riverside Police Department	\$18,000
Riverside Fire Department	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$67,000

If 2021 shows continue as planned = 15% increase from 2019-year shows.

The cost for PRCSD is approximately \$34,000.



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LOGISTICS IMPACT

Evaluation of sites (Mt. Rubidoux and La Sierra Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple departments involved (RFD, PRCSD, RPD) • Weed abatement process required for Mt. Rubidoux – minimum of 150 hours to complete • Tree Trimming required at both sites • Deemed non-essential, additional staff would need to be activated to complete tasks
Procurement Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deemed as non-essential, PRCSD staff will need to be activated to procure fencing, portable restrooms, legal agreement, fireworks, fire permit, traffic plan, special events permit, etc.
Pre-Event Set-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification to residents • Prep for firework set up at Mt. Rubidoux • Installation of fencing at La Sierra Park



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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH : PUBLIC GATHERINGS

CDPH Guidance for the Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission for Gatherings

A gathering of no more than three households is permitted in a public park or other outdoor space, even if unrelated gatherings of other groups up to three households are also occurring in the same park or other outdoor space. If multiple such gatherings are occurring, mixing between groups gatherings is not allowed.

Additionally, multiple gatherings of three households cannot be jointly organized or coordinated to occur in the same public park or other outdoor space at the same time – this would constitute a gathering exceeding the permitted household limits.



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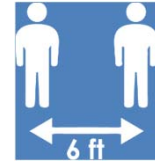
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2021 OPTION 1 RECOMMENDED BY PRCSD

Cancellation of Shows

This option is in response to complying with the current order and with COVID-19 best practices.

1. Enforcing Social Distancing and Public Safety
2. Cost of Event
3. Department Coordination and Timing
4. Estimated savings of \$125,000



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CANCELLATION OF MT. RUBIDOUX SHOW, RECOMMENDED BY RFD & RPD

This recommendation is due to:

1. Excessive crowding and parking on narrow streets.
2. The inability to quickly evacuate the area in the event of an emergency
3. Potential delay in response times for additional emergency resources that may be requested
4. Vast fire mitigation issues.



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2021 OPTION 2

Host show **ONLY** at La Sierra Park

- Firework show to continue as scheduled
- This option would require funding in the amount **\$34,000** in pyro expenses, non-personnel expenses, part-time staff, and overtime costs



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BUDGET CHALLENGES & SPONSORSHIP/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

City of Riverside is currently facing existing and future budget challenges.

Two Options to Generating Funds:

1. Corporate Partnership Policy
 2. Minor Donation Acceptance Policy
 - a) Time constraints related to permits, agreement, traffic plan, safety plan and coordination
- This strategy was attempted in 2017 with poor results; less than \$600 was received from the public.
 - If Council may choose to direct staff to begin a private sponsorship campaign; unmet balance would need to be provided by the General Fund.



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RECOMMENDATION

That the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee:

1. Receive an update on fireworks enforcement;
2. Provide direction on one of two options for the 2021 Fourth of July firework shows;
3. If directed to proceed with hosting a live show, recommend City Council appropriate funding as required to procure firework services; and
4. Provide any recommendations deemed necessary to the Fireworks Task Force.



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