



# **FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT UPDATE; DISCUSSION OF THE 2021 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORK SHOWS**

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

City Council  
April 13, 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.)

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 continues 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	<b>307</b>	705
2017	82	86	138	<b>304</b>	610
2018	58	27	77	<b>403</b>	565
2019	19	28	77	<b>495</b>	619
2020	84	132	243	<b>740</b>	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>\$49,923</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$26,115</b>



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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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## PREVIOUS FIREWORK SHOWS



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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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## LOGISTICS IMPACT

<b>Evaluation of sites (Mt. Rubidoux and La Sierra Park)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple departments involved (RFD, PRCSD, RPD)</li> <li>Weed abatement process required for Mt. Rubidoux – minimum of 150 hours to complete</li> <li>Tree Trimming required at both sites</li> <li>Deemed non-essential, additional staff would need to be activated to complete tasks</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-Event Set-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification to residents</li> <li>Prep for firework set up at Mt. Rubidoux</li> <li>Installation of fencing at La Sierra Park</li> </ul>



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## 2021 OPTION ONE SHOW ONLY AT LA SIERRA PARK

1. In order to reduce the financial impact and resources required, this option would limit to hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Show at La Sierra Park only.
2. This option would require funding in the amount **\$50,500** in pyro expenses, non-personnel expenses, part-time staff and over-time costs.
3. Part of the original RFP No. 7817; bid has already been approved and company is able to proceed.
4. Staff has traffic plan and logistics ready for event at this site.



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## 2021 OPTION TWO SHOWS AT LA SIERRA & RYAN BONAMINIO PARKS

For the safety of residents and visitors, having two locations with firework shows will aid with congestion and large gatherings.

1. Park has pre-existing traffic plan and logistics from previous special events;
2. It's at the opposite end of the La Sierra Park area; and
3. Has adequate open space for the fireworks' fall-out zone.

Having fireworks at Ryan Bonaminio Park (or any other additional site) will require the City to post a new Request for Proposal (RFP). An exact cost will only be available once the bids are received.



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## MT. RUBIDOUX – EVENT SITE

**Not recommended; however, a continuously requested site.**

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. Ideal weed abatement not possible.



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## 2021 EXPENDITURES

(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at La Sierra Park	\$25,000	(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at Ryan Bonaminio Park	~\$25,000	(PRCSD Cost) Fireworks at Mt. Rubidoux	\$35,000
PRCSD Personnel/Non-Personnel Cost	\$9,000	PRCSD Personnel/Non-Personnel Cost; plus fencing	~\$9,000	PRCSD Personnel/Non-Personnel Cost	\$23,000
Riverside Police Department	~\$9,000	Riverside Police Department	~\$9,000	Riverside Police Department	~\$9,000
Riverside Fire Department	~\$7,500	Riverside Fire Department	~\$7,500	Riverside Fire Department	~\$7,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~\$50,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~\$50,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~\$74,500</b>



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## FIREWORK SHOWS – FUTURE YEARS

Agreements, traffic plans, and logistical needs make Tier One, Tier Two and Tier Three locations extremely challenging to accomplish for 2021.

TIER ONE	TIER TWO	TIER THREE
<b>Facility operated by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.</b>	<b>Facility owned or operated by the City of Riverside.</b>	<b>Facility is privately owned, open to the community.</b>
1. Orange Terrace Park 2. Arlington Heights Sports Park 3. Hunter Hobby Park	1. City Hall – Grier Pavilion 2. New Downtown Library - Rooftop 3. Ab Brown Soccer Complex 4. Riverside Municipal Airport	1. University of California Riverside, Men's Baseball Field 2. Ramona High School, Football Stadium 3. Sherman High School, Football Field 4. Riverside Community College, Football Stadium 5. Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery 6. County of Riverside location/partnership

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department has not contacted these agencies.**



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## SPONSORSHIP/DONATION OPPORTUNITIES Options for Future Years

### Two Options to Generating Funds:

1. Corporate Partnership Policy
2. Minor Donation Acceptance Policy
  - a. Time and effort needed to properly market, receive donations, and accept funds.
  - b. Donations are a great option to offset the high cost in providing firework shows.
  - c. This strategy was attempted in 2017 with poor results, less than \$600 were received from the public.



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## SURROUNDING CITIES



The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department surveyed 15 Inland Empire cities who traditionally host firework shows.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Receive an update on fireworks enforcement;
2. Approve one of two options for the 2021 Fourth of July firework shows; and
3. Provide any recommendations deemed necessary to the Fireworks Task Force.



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