



City of Arts & Innovation

Budget Engagement Commission

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS DATE: AUGUST 14, 2025
FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL
SUBJECT: 2025 ILLEGAL FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive and file the 2025 Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Update.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Engagement Commission receive and file the 2025 Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Update.

BACKGROUND:

On December 17, 2024, the City Council, following discussion, approved with six votes of aye and one vote nay, the Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee recommendations to: (1) receive and ordered filed the update on fireworks enforcement activities for 2024 presented by the Riverside Fire Department (RFD); (2) utilize small unmanned aircraft system (SUAS) technology for fireworks enforcement; (3) provide funding for advanced night operation training; (4) provide funding for the purchase of four new DJI M30 Drones; (5) amend Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) 1.18 to include Social Host Liability; and (6) request that the Finance Department forward all outstanding citations to the City Attorney's Office (CAO) for collection via the Franchise Tax board (FTB) Intercept Program, and that RFD, Riverside Police Department (RPD), and Code Enforcement Department collaborate in assigning resources so the CAO can effectively process the citations.

On February 25, 2025, the City Council introduced an ordinance amending RMC 1.18.10 to include a Social Host Ordinance and to allow the use of SUAS (drone) technology for fireworks enforcement. The ordinance makes it unlawful for any social host to allow, by invitation or consent, the use of fireworks on their property. It also holds parents or guardians liable for juveniles found in violation of RMC 1.18. The ordinance was subsequently adopted by City Council on March 11, 2025.

On March 25, 2025, the City Council, with five affirmative votes, authorized the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to record a supplemental appropriation from Measure Z available fund balance in the amount of \$86,106.93 to the Measure Z, Police Field Operations, Special

Department Supplies account for the purchase of drones and an advanced training course for drone pilots to enhance illegal fireworks enforcement.

The approved enhancements for fireworks enforcement were proposed to be implemented in July 2025. Therefore, it was imperative that the Police Department obtain City Council authorization for a funding appropriation as soon as possible in order to purchase the drones and schedule and complete the advanced training prior to the proposed implementation date. The specific funding source was identified shortly before publication of the City Council Agenda for March 25, 2025.

On July 1, 2025, following discussion, the City Council received an overview on the implementation and outreach of the Illegal Fireworks Program Enhancements for 4th of July 2025.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department will provide an update on illegal fireworks enforcement for 2025. The update provides an overview of the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Program Enhancement efforts for 4th of July 2025, RPD staffing deployment, marketing and social media campaign, data analysis on calls for service and citations issued, and the impact of the program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

Prepared by:	Adam LeVesque, Police Lieutenant
Approved by:	Larry V. Gonzalez, Chief of Police
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Kristie Thomas, Finance Director/Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Approved by:	Mike Futrell, City Manager
Approved as to form:	Rebecca McKee-Reimbold, Interim City Attorney