



ILLEGAL FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS - IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY COUNCIL
July 1, 2025

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BACKGROUND

- **December 17, 2024** – The City Council:
 - **Received an Update** on Fireworks Enforcement Activities for 2024
 - **Approved** a recommendation to **utilize sUAS Technology** for Fireworks Enforcement
 - **Approved funding** for advanced nighttime operation **training**
 - **Approved funding** for purchase of **sUAS** and other necessary equipment
- **February 24, 2025** – The City Council introduced and subsequently **adopted an ordinance amending RMC 1.18.10** to include:
 - **A Social Host Ordinance** making social host responsible for illegal fireworks on property and holds parents or guardians liable for juveniles found in violation
 - **Allowing the use of sUAS technology** for illegal fireworks enforcement
- **March 25, 2025** – The City Council **authorized a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$86,106.93** for the purchase of sUAS and pilot training

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DISCUSSION

sUAS Technology for Fireworks

- **Fireworks Enforcement:** RFP and RPD recommended enhancements to RMC 1.18 to include drone enforcement leading up to and on July 4, 2025
 - **Utilizing certified pilots to conduct flights** in areas known to have high incidence **of illegal fireworks**
 - **Lawfully monitor** and video record **such activity** to establish a nexus between unlawful activity
 - **Generate written reports** detailing observations and work with CAO **to issue administrative citations** based on the observations of evidence.



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DISCUSSION

Training Requirements:

- Provided training for nighttime operations

Equipment Needs:

- Five new sUAS with significantly advanced technology

Personnel Cost:

- A sUAS team per Ward
- Teams consist of 2 licensed sUAS pilots (Police Officers)
- Coordinated efforts with Code Enforcement Officers and RFD Investigators



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DISCUSSION

The **City Attorney's Office**, with City Council approval, **amended RMC 1.18** to provide a section for:

- **Social Host Liability:** Ordinance now includes language that it is unlawful for any social host to allow by invitation or consent the use of illegal or storage of fireworks, and to hold the parent or guardians of juveniles liable when found to violate RMC 1.18
- **sUAS:** Authorizes RPD to use sUAS for fireworks enforcement
- **Penalties:** Violation of \$1,500 per day



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DISCUSSION

The City Attorney's Office – Franchise Tax Board Intercept Program:

- **In 2023, the CAO established the first ever FTB Intercept Program** to collect judgments and fines owed to the City. The FTB Intercept Program is effective because it:
 - **Intercepts tax refunds:** It captures tax refunds owed to individuals who have outstanding debts to the City, ensuring these debts are paid.
 - **Encourages timely payment:** By intercepting refunds, it incentivizes individuals to pay their debts promptly to avoid losing their refund.
 - **Improves collection rates:** This program significantly increases the likelihood of collecting outstanding debts owed to the City.



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DISCUSSION

Community Outreach:

- Social Media Posts
- Website Banner
- Electronic Sign
- RPUTV
- Flyer/Poster



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RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council receive and provide input on this overview for implementation and outreach of the Illegal Fireworks Program Enhancements for 4th of July 2025.



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