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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Ruben Torres
Larry Esquivel

SUBJECT: FIREWORKS COMPLIANCE,
ABATEMENT, AND
EMERGENCY MITIGATION
PLAN

DATE: June 27, 2014

Approved

Date

6/27/14

INFORMATION

This memorandum serves to provide information to the Mayor and the City Council on the joint efforts of the San José Fire Department and the San José Police Department to address fireworks compliance and abatement issues within the City of San José during the upcoming 4th of July weekend.

The Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Prevention will lead a Fireworks Safety Campaign to educate the public on the dangers of the illegal use of fireworks and encourage individuals to, instead, attend professional and permitted legal fireworks events occurring in the City. For a list of those events, please refer to the June 11, 2014 Information Memorandum from Interim Fire Chief Ruben Torres at the following link:

<https://www.piersystem.com/external/content/document/1914/2178626/1/06-12-14FIRE.PDF>.

As part of the final stage of the Fireworks Safety Campaign, this year, in cooperation with the Fire Department's Bureau of Field Operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention will deploy staff into the community to enhance awareness of the dangers associated with the illegal use of fireworks. Specifically, on July 4th, the Bureau of Fire Prevention will place five two-person car teams into the community. These teams will be working overtime from approximately 6:00 p.m. to approximately 11:00 p.m. and will rove through designated districts where they will maintain high visibility and engage with the community when illegal fireworks activity is found.

In addition, due to the widespread presence of the illegal use of fireworks over the last several years coupled with the current dry conditions in the County, the Fire Department will reinforce suppression capabilities during critical hours for the 4th of July weekend. Specifically, augmented staffing levels will be in place July 4th through July 6th (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. as follows:

- Staffing of additional Wildland Engine Companies (Engine & Brush Patrol) at Stations 34 and 35;
- Staffing of an Engine Company at Station 30; and
- Three Squads will remain staffed and in service at their assigned stations.

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Lastly, the assigned Duty Fire Chief will monitor weather conditions to determine the need for additional Wildland resources during this period.

In turn, on July 4th, the Police Department will focus on several areas. First, the Police Department will assign officers to take steps to prevent the establishment of commercial grade fireworks at Gran Paradiso Park on McKay Drive, including confiscating illegal fireworks and citing individuals, if necessary.

In addition, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., the Police Department will assign overtime officers to patrol the following locations which have proven to have a high level of illegal fireworks activity during this period of time:

1. Gran Paradiso Park (east of Ringwood Avenue: R-2);
2. Farnham Elementary School (Woodard Road and S. Bascom Ave: T-1);
3. Beacon School (Camden Ave and Blossom Hill Road: A-1); and
4. Cahalan Park (Cahalan Ave. and Pearlwood Place: Y-1).

The Police Department will also assign additional officers to patrol downtown, specifically the downtown area festivities and the fireworks show at Discovery Meadows.

Together, the Fire Department and the Police Department will maintain high visibility and engage with the community when illegal fireworks activity is found. In addition, both Departments are authorized to and will confiscate illegal fireworks and cite individuals for their illegal use of fireworks, where appropriate and safe to do so.

The above steps are aimed at preventing and/or minimizing any potential safety concerns, fire hazards, and traffic congestion at the above locations; along with any new locations identified while staff is in the field.

/s/
RUBEN TORRES
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

/s/
LARRY ESQUIVEL
CHIEF OF POLICE

For questions regarding Fire Department involvement, please contact Johnny Dellinger, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention, at 408-535-7792.

For questions regarding Police Department involvement, please contact Shawny Williams, Police Captain, Bureau of Field Operations, at 408-277-4631.

