



**CITY OF PACIFICA
COUNCIL AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

9/26/2022

SUBJECT:

Report on July 4, 2022 Activities

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept the staff report on July 4th 2022 activities.

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BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

This report serves as the City's annual summary report on July 4th activities, compiled and reported to City Council in September of each year.

The July 4th holiday brings visitors and residents alike out to enjoy local festivities and scenic beaches. While a holiday for most, City of Pacifica staff must work to coordinate community events, clean and stock beach facilities, and provide public safety. City departments collaborated this year, as in past years, to assure a safe and enjoyable July 4th holiday for community members and visitors.

Illegal Fireworks

Illegal fireworks have long been a problem not only in Pacifica, but throughout the State. The Police Department continued a campaign in 2022 to educate the community regarding the enforcement efforts and dangers related to illegal fireworks.

In the days leading to the July 4th holiday, Police Department personnel erected a lighted sign board on State Route One with a message reminding citizens that illegal fireworks are not allowed in Pacifica, and of the potential for a \$1,000 fine for violations. In addition, posters were distributed within the City educating community members regarding the Illegal Fireworks Social Host Ordinance, with the theme of "Host a Show, Pay the Dough." This information was followed up by press releases issued to local print and web-based media, as well as highlighted in Connect with Pacifica weekly newsletters. In addition, anti-litter posters were distributed to local businesses with the intention of keeping Pacifica clean, not only during the July 4th holiday, but year-round.

Safe and Sane Fireworks

This year, (11) non-profit groups received permits to sell Safe and Sane Fireworks. The groups attended a pre-sales informational event hosted by the Pacifica Police Department and North County Fire Authority. Safe and Sane Fireworks booths were erected and inspected by a Fire Inspector before sales could commence. Safe and Sane Fireworks sales operations were without incident this year as no complaints or calls for service were reported to Police or Fire Departments.

The fireworks sales season ends with mandatory beach clean-up efforts. Hosted by the Pacifica Beach Coalition and assisted by Department of Public Works staff, non-profit groups report to beach locations in Pacifica to assist with clean-up efforts. Each group works at least (10) hours on July 5th, then are required to provide at least (10) additional hours of clean-up on an assigned Saturday in July and August.

The below table indicates the number of hours of clean-up worked by each group. The total hours worked this year was 262 hours. Two groups failed to meet the minimum hours of beach clean-up as outlined in our PMC. The City is currently reviewing its options relating to enforcement of this requirement.

Group	Hours (20 required)
American Legion	31.5
Pacifica Moose Lodge	24
Pacifica Girls Softball	21
Pacifica Tigersharks	5
Pacifica United Soccer Club	27.5
Pacifica Youth Baseball	13
Terra Nova High Boosters Club	22
Terra Nova High School Football	35.5
Bay Area Youth Baseball	25
Ingrid B Lacy Middle School	35.5
Pacifica Youth Group	22

Enforcement

The July 4th holiday this year proved to be another busy day for the Police Department. As has been the long-standing policy, all days off were cancelled, with all sworn police personnel working at some point during the day. Police staffing was augmented by (8) officers total from South San Francisco Police Department, Daly City Police Department, and Burlingame Police Department. In past years, staff has been augmented by up to (10) additional officers. This was not possible this year due to staffing shortages experienced by many local police departments. There were (2) Police employees working in the police department front office, handling non-emergency telephone calls. This is a change from past practice, and allowed police dispatchers to focus on emergency calls for service and officer radio traffic.

The below table depicts total calls for service and fireworks related calls for service. Statistics are shown for the entire day (July 4th though July 5th at 2:00 AM) as well as for the busiest portion of the day (July 4th 7:00 PM through July 5th at 2:00 AM). The latter is the time period when the Police Department is the busiest, fireworks activity is at the highest, and the number of officers working is the highest.

	2020			2021			2022	
	July 4th (All Day) through July 5th (2AM)	July 4th (7PM) through July 5th (2AM)		July 4th (All Day) through July 5th (2AM)	July 4th (7PM) through July 5th (2AM)		July 4th (All Day) through July 5th (2AM)	July 4th (7PM) through July 5th (2AM)
Total Calls for Service	348	220		329	213		240 (-27%)	102 (-52%)
Fireworks Calls Only	190	155		191	160		161 (-15%)	85 (-47%)

This year, there were 20 administrative citations issued, compared to 15 in 2021 and 17 in 2020. This year, 4 administrative citations were for violations of the social host ordinance. Of the total administrative citations issued, 4 were issued to persons residing outside of Pacifica. Staff conducted 7 firework appeal hearings and all seven appeals were denied.

Officers were busy handling non-firework related calls on the 4th of July, along with an extensive investigation involving a person found to be in possession of illegal explosives, which required a response from the San Mateo County Bomb Squad.

Overall, illegal firework activity decreased as in years past, as indicated in our call volume table above. Total calls for service throughout the entire day on July 4th decreased by 27% and fireworks only calls (during peak times) decreased 47%.

Safe and Sane Fireworks Sales

Safe and Sane Fireworks sales were robust this year, with the City's 8% safety fee drawing \$41,211 City expenditures for July 4th were largely driven by public safety personnel costs due to increased staffing needed by the Pacifica Police Department and North County Fire Authority.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Police	\$13,311	\$12,054	\$17,514	\$17,663	\$15,438
Fire	\$14,282	\$14,441	\$15,901	\$15,995	\$15,314
Public Works	\$9,182	\$6,229	\$5,761	\$5,665	\$5,680
Total	36,775	\$32,724	\$39,176	\$39,323	\$36,432
8% Fee	\$32,430	\$33,118	\$41,676	\$39,305	41,211

North County Fire Authority

The North County Fire Authority response to July 4th festivities included proactive community outreach, as well as augmented staffing on July 4th. During community outreach, special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of illegal fireworks.

The public was encouraged to attend professional fireworks displays and refrain from using illegal fireworks.

The following is a list of public education and community outreach activities:

- Provided residence and local news outlets information through social media on the potential dangers of fireworks.

- Fire companies, chief officers and fire prevention personnel interacted with the public, discussing fire safety and the penalties associated with the use of illegal fireworks.
- Posted safety information regarding Fourth of July on NCFCA website and through social media.
- Interacted with the public on fireworks and fire safety topics and advised where on beaches fireworks were allowed and not allowed in City of Pacifica.
- Reviewed and approved permits for all Safe and Sane fireworks stands (City of Pacifica).
- Conducted safety and fire code compliance inspections of each Safe and Sane firework stand permitted within the City of Pacifica.
- Provided fireworks safety information to the public.

On July 4th, the North County Fire Authority augmented staffing in Pacifica by adding (2) additional fire companies to prepare for the potential of additional emergency incidents associated with the use of illegal and legal fireworks.

In Pacifica between 8 am on July 4th and 8 am on July 5th, the North County Fire Authority responded to one (very small) Vegetation fire and one debris fire related to fireworks. There were no structure fires or injuries reported.

Parks, Beaches and Recreation

The Parks, Beaches and Recreation Department held the annual Rocket Run, a five-mile race that occurs at 9 am. Also of note, the annual July 4th celebration was held at Frontierland Park. This family-oriented event offered food, crafts, games and other events to celebrate the holiday.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Council could decide to not accept this Report and give alternative direction to staff.

RELATION TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND WORK PLAN:

The collaborative effort to address July 4th related issues and events is intended to contribute to the City Council Goal of ***Maintaining a Safe Community***.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in accepting this report. The fiscal impact regarding July 4th expenditures is outlined in this report.

ORIGINATED BY:

Police

ATTACHMENT LIST: