

## Oral Communications July 7, 2020

I am writing in regard to the use, daily since Memorial Day weekend, of illegal fireworks in the City of Lompoc. We (people and animals) have been subjected to commercial-grade and/or dangerous fireworks, set off continuously, night after night within our city limits.

I have been forced to spend hundreds of dollars on veterinary appointments, sedation medications, and multiple tanks of gas to ensure that my 175lb retired show dog doesn't have a heart attack or get injured from the stress and panic because of all the illegal fireworks detonated during the evenings. My husband was forced to take our dog out of the City of Lompoc and sleep in a tent with him on my friend's ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley. We took this drastic action because of our worry of how bad it could potentially become in the city of Lompoc on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> & Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>. We were obviously correct to have such fears. Especially when the illegal fireworks started being launched as anticipated, blasting loudly on both nights and continued for hours on end until the wee hours of morning.

In my 30+ years of living in the City of Lompoc, I have never witnessed anything the magnitude of what we had to endure this past weekend. I called the non-emergency police number 5 times on the evening of Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the actual street address of the people setting off multiple rounds of huge aerial illegal fireworks which were exploding over adjacent houses in our neighborhood. I was finally told by a much frazzled dispatcher that I didn't need to call in anymore, they were absolutely overwhelmed with phone calls relating to the illegal fireworks. On Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, the non-emergency police number was not answered when called and truthfully, I'm not surprised.

It is frightening to live in a city that isn't staffed properly to handle resident's phone calls and doesn't have enough police officers available to enforce city ordinances, especially when it is stated that the city of Lompoc has "Zero Tolerance" for illegal fireworks. The problem has continued to escalate yearly, to what we all witnessed and suffered through on Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, since the "Safe and Sane" fireworks were permitted to be sold as fund raisers and used within our city limits.

I would like to ask the mayor and council to take into consideration, all of the City of Lompoc resident's quality of life, and put back into effect, a **TOTAL** ban on **ALL** fireworks and **ACTUALLY** enforce the Zero Tolerance policy of all fireworks once again in the City of Lompoc.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



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