

From: [Ron](#)
To: [Haddon, Stacey](#); [Donnelly, Christie](#); [Albro, Dean](#)
Cc: [Osborne, Jenelle](#); [Ball, Jeremy](#); [Starbuck, Dirk](#); [Cordova, Gilda](#); [Vega, Victor](#)
Subject: Public comment, City Council January 16th Agenda Item #9 "Review and Discussion of "Safe and Sane Fireworks" Program".
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Public comment, Item #9 "Review and Discussion of "Safe and Sane Fireworks" Program".

There appears to be an omission in the "A few highlights of the Ordinance" section of this report that should be discussed by the Council.

When the so called "safe and sane fireworks" ordinance was sold to the public back in 2013 it included the following provision in LMC 8.28.120 G: "It shall be unlawful for any person to: Possess, store, sell, display, ignite, discharge, project, or otherwise fire or make use of dangerous fireworks anywhere in the City at any time, except in accordance with a license issued by the state fire marshal for a City-permitted fireworks display."

One of the uses for the revenue collected from the sale of safe and sane fireworks was to enforce this provision of the LMC. However, to date the use of dangerous fireworks has increased to a several days a week occurrence, year-round in some neighborhoods.

Neither Code Enforcement, the Police nor Fire Departments have been able to enforce this requirement.

Discharging aerial and explosive fireworks is a public nuisance and the legalizing of "safe and sane fireworks" seemed to empower some people to think that any type of firework was allowed. Storage of these dangerous explosives presents an unknown hazard to first responders if a fire occurs.

The City of Lompoc should establish a plan to deal with this reoccurring nuisance, increase the penalties for violating the LMC provision and increase apprehensions of suspects.

Ron Fink
Lompoc