

City of Cincinnati



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David S. Mann

Councilmember

July 17, 2020

MOTION

WE MOVE that the City review recent unlawful use of fireworks during the July 4 holiday period and recommend steps to reduce such activity in the future. Recommendations might include improved local and/or state legislation and a better and more coordinated educational and enforcement effort.

David Mann.
Councilmember David Mann

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Statement:

Illegal fireworks complaints have increased this year, presumably as one reaction to the stresses of living with the COVID 19 – e.g., concerns about contracting the disease, the “cabin fever” reaction to long term limitations on social and recreational activity, etc. The complaints via email and social media, especially the neighborhood based NextDoor, make clear that the quantity of complaints increased quite a bit. Many veteran associations have raised awareness on the effects of fireworks on Veterans suffering from PTSD.

Although no injury has been reported recently to our office, per the Consumer Product Safety Commission, “On average, 180 people [in the U.S.] go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday,” in a normal year. We are also aware of significant injuries in the suburbs of Cincinnati, including a death in Mt. Healthy.

This problem deserves thoughtful review.

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Gerald Chello

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