



Date: May 17, 2016

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T-MW*

From: Michael A. DuRee, Fire Chief *WD*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Fireworks Steering Committee**

At its November 3, 2015 meeting, the City Council requested that City management convene the City's Fireworks Steering Committee (Committee) in an effort to proactively address fireworks education and enforcement. The Committee met on April 20, 2016 to discuss and plan the City's outreach, education, and enforcement activities in preparation for the Fourth of July holiday. Early planning and coordination between departments are critical to minimizing the impacts of illegal fireworks. To this end, Committee members are sharing information regarding block parties and other large assemblies, street closures, plans for traffic control and signage, outreach and education efforts, and enforcement activities. The next Committee meeting will take place later this month.

As in previous years, the Fire Department will coordinate public service announcements, press releases, and the distribution of educational materials communicating that all fireworks are dangerous and illegal in the City of Long Beach. This message will be communicated through a variety of media, including social media, television, electronic signage, and the posting of flyers, banners, and posters in highly visible locations. Educational information will also be shared and distributed in Long Beach schools and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers will distribute information relating to the "All Fireworks are Illegal in Long Beach" campaign. Additionally, this year, the Fire Department will speak at community meetings and events, such as community concerts, about the illegality and dangers of all fireworks.

The Fire Department will continue to partner with the Police Department by deploying two patrol vehicles, each staffed with two Arson Investigators, on the nights of July 2 through July 4, to respond to reports of illegal fireworks. These patrols will target areas of the City known for historic use of fireworks and respond to reports of illegal firework activity citywide.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (562) 570-2509,.

MAD:DH
Q:/ADMINISTRATION/LETTERS AND MEMOS/FIREWORKS STEERING COMMITTEE

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