

City Council Request for Legislative Modifications



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Council member sponsor(s)

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Briefly describe the minor modification being requested

Increasing the penalties for violations of Lakewood's firework ban (5.20.020). Currently a person in violation is subject to a max fine of \$2650.00 or 365 days in jail (1.16.020(A)), though the actual penalty assessed does vary is is often less. Input from Chief McCasky and Judge Stavig is sought as to the increases in penalties.

Provide history / background information that supports the request

Every year we receive numerous complaints from residents regarding large mortar fireworks set off at all hours in neighborhoods. Aside from the obvious threats to homes/property, there is a significant wildfire danger. We've also heard concerns about veteran residents, pets, and other residents negatively impacted by the loud noises. Increasing the maximum penalties for those who are caught launching illegal fireworks may deter violators.

LAC is currently tasked with looking into this further, but any recommendations from them would likely be part of a broader policy discussion at some point in the future. Our current proposal is just as to the penalties, which should not be a heavy lift or require extensive research.

If it needs expedited handling, please provide an explanation why

The weeks preceding and following July 4th are typically the times when illegal fireworks are a significant issue in our neighborhoods.

Attach file if needed