

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Esparza

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 5/10/2021

Approved

*Maya Esparza*

Date: 5/10/2021

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO TITLE 10 (SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE) AND TO  
2020-2021 SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR ILLEGAL  
FIREWORKS**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Accept Staff recommendations regarding the adoption of the Social Host Ordinance and amended 2020-2021 Schedule of Fees and Charges to establish charges for emergency responses related to fireworks violations.
2. Direct the City Manager in coordination with the Fire Chief to develop a social media outreach and education campaign regarding the Social Host Ordinance and amended Schedule of Fees and Charges to be implemented ahead of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## **BACKGROUND**

Our residents have long demanded that we take further steps to curb the use of illegal fireworks in our communities. Much more than simply a nuisance, the irresponsible and reckless use of fireworks poses a very real and very significant safety hazard to our residents, particularly those who live in dense, multi-family units, and mobile homes. Adoption of the Social Host Ordinance and the associated fees and charges will expand the legal burden of responsibility to include those who host gatherings with illegal firework activity, and place the significant cost of consequent City emergency responses on those individuals.

This approach mirrors similar actions that the Council has taken to address illegal street racing in our communities, when we first expanded the scope of culpability to spectators, and more recently to those who promote these illegal activities on social media. As with our approach to street racing, the goal of expanding the legal responsibility for illegal fireworks activities is deterrence—we simply want these dangerous activities to stop. Property owners and event hosts have a responsibility to ensure that their event does not pose a danger to their neighbors, and these actions will align that responsibility with the law.

I ask the City Manager to work with the Fire Chief to develop a social media campaign to ensure that our residents are aware and informed about these changes in advance of this year's upcoming Fourth of July, so that all of our residents can celebrate safely and responsibly.