

Dear City Council

After reading the staff report it looks like staff is basically angling towards the conclusion that there isn't a significant illegal fireworks problem in Hermosa Beach.

Before you dismiss this conclusion please consider the Hermosa Beach Police Department says it is currently satisfied with the enforcement tools at its disposal AND THE DETERRENT EFFECT of the existing California Health and Safety Code.

See the staff report.

<https://hermosabeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6732386&GUID=D2477E1D-CC4F-4F6A-93D5-F3723B8ECC00>

But why would the HBPD be "satisfied with the deterrent effect of the California Health and Safety Code" when so many residents are up at arms about the fireworks explosions that are routinely jarring us out sound sleep in the weeks leading up to the 4th; wreaking havoc on our quality of life, terrorizing our pets and scaring the hell out of infants and toddlers while laying waste to a healthy night's sleep for many of us.

And on the 4th all you have to do is walk down the strand or by most large parties anywhere on the westside to see the extent to which dangerous fireworks are used in the city.

i believe there are options if you are serious about putting a dent in the use of dangerous highly explosive fireworks in our community.

I can't say the option proposed below is right for our community; that's best decided by the Police Chief, the City Attorney and the Council.

I offer this just to show 1 potential solutions that I don't think are being adequately considered.

#### POSSIBLE SOLUTION:

First, fund and equip plain clothes private security patrols with body cams to patrol high pedestrian traffic areas on the westside in the weeks leading up to the 4th, and especially on the 4th and have them video the use of dangerous fireworks (e.g. non safe and sane fireworks) on private property or on public places like the beach.

As long as the video is shot from a public place it's perfectly legal to record what's happening at private parties on private property.

Moreover it's common practice for the private sector to employ plain clothed private security with body cams in stores and outside at special events.

Second, process this video the next day and identify the property, the property owner and administer a significant fine to the property owner, say \$5,000 for the first dangerous fireworks offense.

Third, if it is a rental property the property owner should be given the opportunity to provide a copy of the rental agreement to the city and have the citation reassigned to the renters.

Fourth, if the illegal dangerous fireworks were deployed in a public place like on the beach or in a park then make reasonable after the fact attempt to identify the person responsible from the video and issue a citation.

Fifth, once plain clothed private security or police finish videoing any use of dangerous fireworks call in the regular police.

Sixth, fully notify residents about this enforcement action to maximize its deterrent effect.

Simply stated the City's Fireworks enforcement measures haven't worked to the satisfaction of most residents and most believe essentially the same problems will exist five years from now

Finally establish an additional \$5,000 fine to deter the malicious use of loud dangerous explosives late at night say after 10pm.

This might deter young teens and adults from lighting m-80s and similar explosives late at night and escaping on their e-bikes in a warped sense of fun.

I hope the city will consider this option rather than trying to convince the public we don't have a significant problem with the use of dangerous fireworks and explosives in our community.

Anthony Higgins