



## Staff Report

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police  
**DATE:** January 4, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion of Beaumont Police Department Response to Calls for Illegal Fireworks and Provide Direction to City Staff

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### Background and Analysis:

This item is being presented at City Council's request after receiving complaints related to illegal fireworks activity following Independence Day 2021. The use of illegal fireworks on and around the Independence Day holiday generates a high volume of calls to the Beaumont Police Department.

On July 4, 2021, 138 calls were received reporting the use of illegal fireworks and of these calls, officers issued six citations and confiscated a large quantity of fireworks. The Police Department also responded to an additional 243 calls for service within the same timeframe. The dispatch center handled 371 calls for service compared to a normal daily average of 240 calls. To handle the increased call load, the department staffs an additional communication officer, a police lieutenant, sergeant, and five additional officers.

In addition to fireworks enforcement, the Police Department also staffs the Fourth of July Freedom Festival at Stewart Park. This event results in a considerable dedication of police officers and volunteers to provide site security and traffic control. The cost of police services for the festival in 2019 was more than \$10,000.

The most significant challenge to enforcing illegal fireworks is the ability to quickly identify and respond to the location of illegal fireworks activity. City staff has three recommendations that may assist in the detection and enforcement of Chapter 9.41 Fireworks in the Beaumont Municipal Code.

Recommendation 1: Implementation of the City's mobile app with a firework reporting tab that will enable members of the community to file real-time reports alerting officers of the specific location of individuals setting off fireworks.

Recommendation 2: The formation of a fireworks taskforce that will deploy fire marshal personnel, code enforcement officers, and police officers into neighborhoods in the nights leading up to July 4.

Recommendation 3: The Police Department utilizing its unmanned aerial vehicle to focus on areas of frequent calls for service for fireworks to identify locations and persons of use.

**Fiscal Impact:**

City staff estimates the cost to prepare this staff report to be \$975.

**Recommended Action:**

Discuss and provide direction to City staff.