



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE July 19, 2022
SUBJECT: July 4, 2022, Fireworks Enforcement

Background and Analysis:

The Freedom Festival was held at Stewart Park on July 4, 2022. This event was free to the public and included live entertainment, vendors, and a fireworks show. There were approximately 2,500 in attendance.

The Beaumont Police Department staffed this event with seven (7) police officers and one (1) police sergeant from 3 pm to 10 pm. Their primary responsibilities were to provide safety at the event, as well as traffic control for street closures around the venue. Sworn staff was comprised exclusively of overtime personnel, as all regularly scheduled staff were dedicated to patrol operations.

Additionally, seven (7) police officers and one (1) sergeant were brought in on overtime to supplement the patrol division and specifically work fireworks related calls from 6 p.m. to midnight.

In the days prior to and on July 4, the Police Department experiences an increase in illegal fireworks. Previous efforts to combat these safety concerns from using illegal fireworks were by use of traditional criminal enforcement, where a violator is cited, and the case filed with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. This method was ineffective due to the district attorney's office electing not to file any fireworks cases.

In response, the City of Beaumont took proactive measures and enhanced the local Municipal Code 9.41.020, increasing the imposed fines to the following:

\$1,000 for the 1st violation

\$2,500 for the 2nd violation

\$5,000 for the 3rd and all subsequent violations

On July 4, officers handled approximately 68 calls for service related to fireworks. A total of 12 violators were cited. All citations were for the violator's first violation, with a \$1,000 fine. The enforcement effort was successful, as there were no incidents of a second violation. Those violators who received a citation will be billed through the City's contracted citation tracking management provider, Turbo System Data Systems, Inc.

During the week of June 27 through July 3, the Beaumont Police Department had an additional 16 calls for service related to fireworks.

Fiscal Impact:

Freedom festival staffing:

- Monday, July 4, 2022, 3 pm – 10 pm:
 - (1) Police Sergeant – Supervisor
 - (7) Police Officers
 - Total Overtime Hours = 57
 - Total Overtime Cost = \$4,632.21

Fireworks enforcement detail:

- Monday, July 4, 2022, 6 pm - Midnight:
 - (1) Police Sergeant – Supervisor
 - (7) Police Officers/Corporals
 - (1) Public Safety Dispatcher
 - Total Overtime Hours = 52
 - Total Overtime Cost = \$4,148.94

Total Cost for Freedom Festival	\$4,632.21
Total Cost for Fireworks Enforcement	\$4,148.94
Combined total:	\$8,781.15

Recommended Action:

Receive and file.