



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: February 15, 2022
SUBJECT: **Public Hearing and First Reading to Approve an Addition to Municipal Code Section 1.16 “General Penalty” Adding Penalties for the Possession and Use of Illegal Fireworks**

Background and Analysis:

A discussion was held at the January 4, 2022, City Council meeting regarding complaints received related to illegal fireworks activity following Independence Day 2021.

The Beaumont Police Department (BPD) received 138 calls reporting the use of illegal fireworks. Of these calls, officers issued six citations and confiscated a large quantity of fireworks. The BPD also responded to another 243 calls for service within the same time frame. The dispatch center handled 371 calls for service when the daily average is approximately 240 daily calls. To handle this increased call load, the department staffed an additional communications officer, a police lieutenant, sergeant and five additional officers.

In addition to fireworks enforcement, the BPD also staffs the City’s concert and fireworks show at Stewart Park on Independence Day. 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 Independence Day event in 2019 was over \$10,000.

In its prior deliberation on this matter the City Council directed that penalties be increased for the possession and or use of illegal fireworks. If approved, the following will be added to Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 1.16.030, as section “C”:

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation involving the possession or use of fireworks as defined in California Health & Safety Code §12676 and §12677 is punishable by:

- i. A fine not exceeding \$1,000.00 for a first violation;
- ii. A fine not exceeding \$2,500.00 for a second violation of the same provision within one year; and
- iii. A fine not exceeding \$5,000.00 for each additional violation of the same provision within one year of the first violation.

The fourth violation and every violation of the same ordinance within one year may thereafter be charged as a misdemeanor.

A notification to the public was published in area newspapers on February 1, 2022. This notification advertised the ordinance and the scheduled public hearing.

Fiscal Impact:

City staff estimates the cost to prepare this staff report to be \$146.

Recommended Action:

Hold a public hearing, and
Waive the full first reading and approve by title only, "An Ordinance of the City of Beaumont Amending the Beaumont Municipal Code Chapter 1.16 Entitled 'General Penalty' and Making Findings Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act."

Attachments:

- A. Ordinance
- B. Exhibit A to Ordinance
- C. Public Notice