



Outlook

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## Request to Collaborate with the Monte Foundation for Environmentally Friendly Community Celebrations

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**From** Jack Brown <jack.b.brown@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 1/6/2025 2:15 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Members of the Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the annual use of fireworks as part of the community celebrations supported by the Monte Foundation planned for this October. While the displays are undoubtedly a cherished tradition, I urge you to consider the environmental impact and the effects on individuals affected by PTSD and other sensitivities.

Fireworks generate significant air and water pollution, which can harm local wildlife, marine ecosystems, and overall air quality. The debris often ends up in the ocean and on our beautiful beaches, threatening the natural environment that makes Capitola and Monterey Bay such a special place. Additionally, the loud noises from fireworks can be distressing for individuals living with PTSD, as well as for pets and wildlife in the area. I appreciate that the date and time is published and proper public safety measures are taken (unlike during the rest of the year when drunken revelers use unsafe illegal fireworks and explosives indiscriminately). We try to reach out to our community each year to let others know of the show, but many residents are still shocked by the noise and duration as they were not reached.

Our community is known for its innovative spirit and dedication to sustainability. I believe we can work together to explore alternatives that celebrate our community while aligning with our values of environmental stewardship and inclusivity. For example, drone light shows, laser displays, or other creative events could provide a stunning and memorable experience without the harmful side effects.

I respectfully request that the City Council engage in discussions with the Monte Foundation to evaluate these or other alternatives for future celebrations. We really appreciate all that the Monte Foundation does to help the community and many non-profits in the area. By making this change, Capitola and the Monte Foundation can set an example as a forward-thinking community that values the well-being of all its residents and the preservation of its natural environment.

Thank you for considering this important issue. I would be happy to participate in or support efforts to research and implement alternative celebration options. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Jack Brown

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