



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Roman Baligad, Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Director

Council Meeting Date: June 17, 2025

Agenda Item Wording: **Discuss and consider approval of an Ordinance of the City of Dripping Springs, Texas amending Chapter 16; Prohibiting the Discharge of Fireworks within the Mercer Street Historic District.**

Agenda Item Requestor:

Summary/Background: To consider adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the use, possession, and discharge of consumer fireworks within the Mercer Street Historic District in order to protect the area's historic structures, public safety, and quality of life.

The Mercer Street Historic District is a designated cultural and architectural landmark, containing buildings over 100 years old, many constructed from wood or other flammable materials. The district draws significant foot traffic throughout the year due to its small-town charm, preserved architecture, and community events.

In recent years, concerns have been raised by residents, property owners, and the local fire department about the risks associated with fireworks in this area. These concerns include:

- **Fire Risk:** Increased danger of fire due to aging wooden structures and dense building placement.
- **Public Safety:** Fireworks can cause injury to bystanders and residents, especially in crowded or confined areas.
- **Noise & Nuisance:** Fireworks disturb local wildlife, residents, and visitors, particularly those with sensory sensitivities or pets.
- **Property Damage:** Reports of scorch marks, debris, and broken windows from unauthorized firework use.
- **Potential for Public Panic:** Loud and sudden fireworks during festivals and events can be mistaken for gunfire or explosions,

leading to confusion, fear, and possible crowd surges or injuries in a densely populated area.

Staff

Recommendations: City staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

Commission

Recommendations: Emergency Management Committee recommends approval of the ordinance.

**Recommended
Council Actions:**

Attachments: Ordinance

Next Steps/Schedule: