

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 3, 2026
TO: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager
FROM: Sean P. Ballantine, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: 2026 Fireworks Display Permit Approval

Presented for consideration is the annual permit approval for the 2026 Festival in the Park fireworks display. The permit application process for a commercial or public fireworks display in the State of Michigan requires approval of the legislative body.

Related to this topic, the request was made to research the possibility of a drone show as an alternate option to fireworks during Strategic Planning, and I wanted to provide an update on this effort. Recreation has researched this as part of our planning in the months leading up to Festival, with findings indicating that a show of comparable intensity and duration would be cost-prohibitive based on the current budget. Additionally, due to this year marking the nation's 250th anniversary, we were required to lock in our order with our current vendor, Pyrotechnico, months ahead of time in order to ensure a display for our event.

Staff plans to continue working out the logistics for possible drone events in conjunction with other City functions, as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance our Recreation offerings and events for our residents.

Staff recommends that Council approve the permit for the 2026 Festival in the Park Fireworks Display from Pyrotechnico Fireworks, and authorize the Mayor to sign on the City's behalf.

City of Madison Heights
Department of Public Services
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