



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6472
May 21, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6472: Public Display of Fireworks Permit Issuance – Summer Celebration	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize grant of operational permit to Western States Fireworks.	

DEPARTMENT:	Fire
STAFF:	Ben Lane, Eastside Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Jeromy Hicks, Eastside Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Insurance Verification 2. Site Layout, Display Area Map, Safety Information
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to issue a public display of firework permit as required under International Fire Code (IFC) section 105 and Mercer Island City Code [\(MICC\) 8.35.020](#).

- Western Display Fireworks has applied for an operational permit for the public display of fireworks.
- This display will take place during the City of Mercer Island’s Summer Celebration and conforms to applicable City adopted codes and Washington State RCW (70.77.295).
- The Fire Marshal’s Office is required to investigate the validity of the permit application and make a recommendation for approval or denial of the permit to the City Council.
- The Fire Marshal’s Office recommends approval of the permit.

BACKGROUND

On average, the City of Mercer Island approves one to two public fireworks displays per year. In this instance, the information provided by Western Display Fireworks meets submission requirements. The applicant provided information containing MICC required insurance (see Exhibit 1), discharge location, loading, firework manifest, safety plan, security plan, timing, and applicable licenses (see Exhibit 2).

Mercer Island Marine Patrol was contracted to provide security of the required isolation zone as done with previous displays of this type. Professional public displays provide a safe and controlled environment for spectators to observe from a distance. These displays are designed with a high level of safety margin and operated by a licensed pyrotechnician.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

While this display is being conducted on a barge in a waterway, the jurisdiction for the barge location falls under the Mercer Island Fire Marshal's Office for a public display of fireworks permit and is subject to our adopted code.

MICC 8.35.020(C) states: *"The local fire official shall investigate and submit a report of findings and recommendations for or against the issuance of the permit to the city council. The city council shall have the power in its discretion to grant or deny the application, subject to such reasonable conditions, if any, as it shall prescribe."*

During the application review it was found that the applicant meets all state and local requirements, including licensed pyrotechnician, General Display Fireworks License, barge layout and manifest, isolation area, and safety plan. Additionally, the applicant provided a Certificate of Liability Insurance (see Exhibit 1) with the proper insurance limits required by [RCW 70.77.295](#) and [MICC 8.35.020\(F\)](#).

The discharge of fireworks occurs on a barge in the water. Firework displays are conducted in/around water areas due to the increased safety margin. The applicant will secure proper waterway permits (where applicable) and security for exclusion zones.

NEXT STEPS

If approved the Fire Marshal's Office will issue an operational permit to Western Display Fireworks. This permit will contain specific conditions as outlined by best practices, applicable laws, and industry standards. The operational permit is only valid for this one event. Any further displays requests will follow the same requirements and be brought before the City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize grant of operational permit for Western Display Firework's application for a Public Display of Fireworks to be discharged per the permit conditions on July 13, 2024 at or about 2200hrs (10:00 pm) for a total duration of approximately 20 minutes pursuant to MICC 8.35.020(C).