

## E-Mail Comments Received on Fireworks

**From:** Alicia Vasquez  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:13:03 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Brown <[AnnaB@UnionCity.Org](mailto:AnnaB@UnionCity.Org)>  
**Subject:** Fireworks meeting

If your property is damaged, who is responsible for repair. I live next to the skylark condo complex and they say they are not responsible.

From  
EDWARD DIJEAU  
Wed 9/15/2021 8:43 PM

To: [UnionCity@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:UnionCity@public.govdelivery.com)  
Cc: EDWARD DIJEAU

My house and yard were full of debris from aerial bombardment from out of town men firing off the explosives over my house from a side street between Begonia Street and Hollyhock . With all the shootings of people confronting criminals now and the "Side Shows" of cars Burning donuts on Mann avenue every weekend, It seems the Safe and Sane fireworks, for sale in Union City, only gets the rest of the bay area to come here to fire off those illegal fireworks and show off their "Fast and Furious" talents on our streets..

We need to get the State of California to assist on Law enforcement of "State Law" against those fire causing Aerial bombs. After all, WE have rounded up all those violators into one city and Cal Fire, highway patrol plus our police can issue citations that require a day in court. Spending a weekend cleaning up the city streets, ordered by a court of law, could be better than a fine that never gets paid. Jail time or threat of jail time stops most casual crime such as "Side Shows" or "Illegal Fireworks" We could also use a special phone number to call for a special 4th of July and "side Show" response dispatch rather than tie up or other police emergency lines. If criminals think the police or dispatchers are tied up with Fire Works Calls, they will hit with smash and grab big box stores or liquor stores. Another possibility is sobriety traffic check points on Alvarado Niles, Decoto Road , Mission Boulevard at Whipple Road and Union City Blvd entering from Hayward every 4th of July because, besides empty bomb launchers on our streets, we found lots of empty beer cans.

We can not stop selling "Safe and Sane" Fireworks only because of the criminals, that use the legality of those fireworks, to do their dirty deeds with illegal fireworks. You could also give immunity to "garden Hose Tenders" that spray down illegal fireworks and their lighters over the fence from their back yards into the streets where the fireworks are being lit. Wet fireworks do not light...the rest of the night. On bigger illegal fireworks parties, we could use Cal Fire helicopters dropping fire suppression water drops on streets and yards since they would not hurt anyone but would make the fireworks too wet to light. Once they know we are aggressive to the offenders here in Union City, even with pre 4th demonstration of water drops and police round up tactics on the evening news with other advertised methods, they can not say they were not warned when they get drenched and arrested. Wet drivers could also be singled out for sobriety checks as they drive on down the road.

**From:** Eric Singh

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:30:33 PM

**To:** City Manager <[city.manager@unioncity.org](mailto:city.manager@unioncity.org)>; Joan Malloy <[JoanM@UnionCity.Org](mailto:JoanM@UnionCity.Org)>; Carol Dutra-Vernaci <[CarolD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:CarolD@UnionCity.Org)>

**Subject:** Fireworks

Why would you guys think about banning fireworks? As they pay for alot of programs, maybe the city can set up a booth next year to make money for the city street lights?

I vote no to ban fireworks

Dear Mark

As life long Union City residents, We Love Union City. We've watched it grow from a small Decoto, into a thriving city. However, we're extremely concerned with the illegal fireworks situation in our city. The 4th of July used to be a fun, family holiday that we all enjoyed. Sadly, it's now a time of DREAD & fear. Especially for our dog & all the pets here. We completely understand the lack of staffing for the police dept., but this TERRIBLE situation has to change. It feels like the whole city is being held hostage by these selfish, ignorant fools who unwisely spend their money to hear loud bangs. Ironically as I'm writing this, 3 loud booms are going off in the creek. Probably M80s or larger.

With the severe drought in our state, the last thing that's needed is fire causing illegal fireworks. Twice in the last 3 years (including this year), illegal fireworks have caused a fire in the Alameda Creek, directly behind our home. No one in this city wants to become a statistic, with the loss of their home, property or a life.

We're not able to participate in the Zoom call this Thursday. However we want this email to speak for us, our dog & everyone else in our wonderful city who believes this change can happen.

Thank you for all your help & dedication to our city

Gail & Jesus Herrera  
t.

Dear Mr. Evanoff,

Thank you for your response to my email. Our invitation and request to meet with you, your staff, and the city council still stands. I encourage you and the city administration to take us up on this offer so we may better understand each other's positions. It is our goal to voice our understanding of this matter. Educate us and allow us to do the same!

Per your email, (paragraph 2), we would like the opportunity to participate in the discussions for any actions relating to all fireworks, legal or illegal, planning, and/or otherwise.

I understand your statement about charging the organizations for the full cost of processing fireworks events. (paragraph 3)

I believe there may be a disagreement in stating the true costs as stated in your presentations. It is my opinion that there are key categories that are not mentioned that honestly show the financial impact.

Some of the categories include, but not unlimited to:

- 1) cost of daily business, (city office operations)
- 2) added costs due to Safe and Sane Fire Works (SSFW) event,
- 3) the costs of illegal Fireworks (FW).
- 4) cost for just the holiday (added public safety, overtime, the same as any other city)

At the end of the day, there is a cost of everyday business, 4-July event or not. The city offices still need to be open. You already charge a processing fee for the application. These costs should not be passed to the event.

There is a cost for the 4-July day, even if there were no SSFW, there would still need to be extra public service personnel just for what happens on this holiday. This is a standard operating cost associated with holiday operations.

Then there is a cost of illegal fireworks that you still have, whether you allow or ban the sale of SSFW. It is my understanding that these costs will still be there if SSFW were banned. So at this point, it seems the city is charging the Fireworks Group for services not directly related to the sale of SSFW. You keep mentioning that not all charges are accurately reflected.

On your email, (Paragraph 4), you state "Keep in mind there is no proposal to ban the sale of safe and sane fireworks for the 2022 season." Please help me understand the statement and the documentation provided by the City Council. They seem to not agree in focus or theme.

May I point out to you:

Agenda Item memo, dated August 10, 2021,  
to the mayor and city council, with the focus on "information" and "direction regarding fireworks regulations and potential options related to the same"

Section: BANNING FIREWORKS

"passing an ordinance prohibiting fireworks sales immediately", directions and options

**From:** Kristian Bowden - Menotti

**Sent:** Sunday, September 19, 2021 3:33:23 PM

**To:** Carol Dutra-Vernaci <[CarolD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:CarolD@UnionCity.Org)>; Emily Duncan <[EmilyD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:EmilyD@UnionCity.Org)>; Jaime Patino <[JaimeP@UnionCity.Org](mailto:JaimeP@UnionCity.Org)>; Pat Gacoscos <[PatG@UnionCity.Org](mailto:PatG@UnionCity.Org)>; Gary Singh <[GaryS@UnionCity.Org](mailto:GaryS@UnionCity.Org)>

**Cc:** [jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us) <[jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us)>

**Subject:** Fireworks

Hello,

My name is Kristian Menotti and I am the mother of a child who attends James Logan High School. My son has been involved with the Forensics Program/Speech and Debate program at James Logan for the past 4 years. He has represented James Logan at Speech and Debate tournaments all over the country including the tournament of champions (the most prestigious event in High School debate in the country). The speech and debate program at James Logan has been instrumental in molding my son into the bright, well spoken, confident and critical thinking young man he is today. Unlike a lot of other forensics/speech and debate programs in our area our program at James Logan depends on fundraisers to support the program financially. The program is dependent on several fundraising ventures each year including a fireworks booth in July that alone raises \$63,000 a year for our program. Without this event our program would be decimated and it is questionable how the school could continue to offer this program to students. This would be shameful as our program is one of the most gifted, awarded and nationally recognized in the nation!

I am writing you to express my opposition to banning safe and sane fireworks. State approved fireworks are not problematic in our city. Every year the people in my neighborhood purchase them and we enjoy them as a community. It is honestly the only time during the entire year we all gather on our street and share stories, fellowship and fun. In a world where we are more disconnected than ever the fun and good times of the 4th brings our neighborhood together and we feel like a community. Honestly, I feel like my gas grill could be more of a fire hazard than the safe and sane fireworks we use! The issue and hazard appear to be more linked to the illegal fireworks that people are utilizing. Banning safe and sane fireworks does not appear to have a direct impact on illegal fireworks. An example of this is with the cities of Oakland and Fremont. Both cities have bans on all fireworks yet people continue to utilize illegal fireworks. In fact, the sky over Oakland on July 4th can rival professional fireworks shows! Under the current city ordinance, State-Approved Fireworks may only be used from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm on the 4th of July. This means there are 3 hours out of the 8760 hours that make up each year that these fireworks are legal to use in Union City. If banning them would solve the city's illegal fireworks problem why does the city have illegal fireworks being used to the balance of the 8, 757 hours each year? Finally reducing the number of hours for the legal use of safe and sane fireworks from 3 hours to 2 hours on the 4th of July does not appear to be impactful. It would compact the use of almost \$400,000 of state approved fireworks into 2/3 of the current time. If any change is made to the hours of use, it should be to expand the hours and/or days of use not compact use into a shorter time period.

The banning of safe and sane fireworks will not impact the use of illegal fireworks. The impact will be on all of the programs in Union City, including the James Logan Forensics/Speech and Debate program that depend on fundraising through the fireworks booths. Please consider alternative solutions including increase in police presence, tip lines, social media efforts, etc to assist with the control of illegal fireworks use. Please do not punish the innocent people who enjoy safe and sane fireworks as well as the many organizations in our community that depend on the fundraising that the sale of safe and sane fireworks provides.

Thank you for reviewing my email and for your time and consideration.

Warmly,

Kristian Bowden Menotti

**From:** Lillie Turner

**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:53:45 PM

**To:** Joan Malloy <[JoanM@UnionCity.Org](mailto:JoanM@UnionCity.Org)>; Carol Dutra-Vernaci <[CarolD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:CarolD@UnionCity.Org)>

**Subject:** Fw: Reminder: Join the Conversation about Fireworks in Union City

Good Evening,

I attended today's session and was honestly disappointed in the biased manner data was presented. The topography and demographics of Union City are dramatically different from Petaluma. I'm not sure why that information was material here. You also verbally stated San Leandro showed an increase in calls, but failed to include this fact in the written presentation. It appears the City is simply appeasing citizens with meetings when you've already decided on a direction. This was also evident in how the moderator selected which questions to answer and which he stated "thanks for sharing". We are all adults.....let's be honest and transparent in our engagements.

My questions are:

1. Has the City conducted any studies that identify the impacts of banning legal fireworks? Will the use of illegal fireworks be reduced? By how much? Will the number of police and fire calls be reduced? By how much? Relevant quantitative data should play a role in the decision. By relevant I'm referring to comparable cities.

2. What's the City's plan to financially support non-profits if legal fireworks are banned? The reality is, non-profits are all vying for the same limited resources, none of which are provided by the City. How does the City expect these organizations to survive and how will the City address the fallout of these groups dissolving? Certainly, you expect increased police activity when young people are idle.

The City wants support from the residence, but where/how does the City reciprocate? If illegal fireworks are the issue, then let's solve for that issue without adding further damage.

Lillie Turner

From: **M Silva**

Date: Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 10:54 AM

Subject: fireworks

To: [city.manager@unioncity.org](mailto:city.manager@unioncity.org) <[city.manager@unioncity.org](mailto:city.manager@unioncity.org)>

I just finished the survey you sent out. This survey did not allow the residents to express their opinions just to select what you want to hear.

I have questions that I would like answered please.

This last 4th of July was the worst ever so.

1. How many actual calls did you get? I called and was told every time that there at least 150 calls waiting to be answered by police.
2. How much money in fines did the city actually make???
3. How much did it cost the city for fire, police and other services that night? and the week before and after?
4. What was the cost of property damage?
5. Why can't the schools do like Fremont and other schools to make money they seem to be doing fine without fireworks?

The city is just stalling because they have no real solutions to problems or budgets. Wish I could just get a raise when I have a problem, but guess what Social Security doesn't just give

us old people more money when we need it. Grow up. We need new people in government here that are problem solvers and are not afraid to act.

Also Union City is not a "COMPASSIONATE CITY" just ask the vets with PTSD or the owners of pets.

I have lived here for almost 40 years and it has never been this bad.

Please answer my questions, I don't need to be anonymous because me and alot of my neighbors really care.

Merilyn Silva

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

Life is too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so love the people who treat you right, forgive the ones who don't, and believe that everything happens for a reason.

**From:** Mary Rook

**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 6:07:37 PM

**To:** Carol Dutra-Vernaci <[CarolD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:CarolD@UnionCity.Org)>; Emily Duncan <[EmilyD@UnionCity.Org](mailto:EmilyD@UnionCity.Org)>; Jaime Patino <[JaimeP@UnionCity.Org](mailto:JaimeP@UnionCity.Org)>; Pat Gacoscos <[PatG@UnionCity.Org](mailto:PatG@UnionCity.Org)>; Gary Singh <[GaryS@UnionCity.Org](mailto:GaryS@UnionCity.Org)>

**Cc:** [jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us) <[jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jgarrett@nhusd.k12.ca.us)>; [broussardm@tntfireworks.com](mailto:broussardm@tntfireworks.com) <[broussardm@tntfireworks.com](mailto:broussardm@tntfireworks.com)>

**Subject:** SAVE FIREWORKS 2021!

*The need for public speaking skills is ESCALATING in this increasingly competitive digital economy and JLHS Forensics has an over 30 year history of being the TOP RANKED PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM in the country! Our annual Fireworks fundraiser keeps this program alive.*

*Both of my children were members of JLHS Forensics team and I can't express enough how much of a difference this has made in their post-high school lives as both students and professionals. The life skills that are taught in this program are invaluable to every student that participates. The funding from the annual fireworks sales are absolutely necessary for this program to continue.*

*I completely understand and agree that illegal fireworks are a problem and need to be addressed. However, I can't fathom how eliminating safe fireworks will in any way address this issue. If anything, it will make the problem far worse. As a 20 year resident of Union City, I implore you to do the right thing and continue to allow safe and sane fireworks in our community.*

*Mary Rook*

The Union City-City Council May Vote to Ban the Sale and Use of State Fire Marshal-Approved Fireworks.

The James Logan Forensics Team is in urgent need of your immediate support and help! The Union City-City Council is considering banning the sale and use of State Fire Marshal-Approved, Safe and Sane Fireworks. Each year the sale of these fireworks raises almost \$400,000 for Union City nonprofits, providing over \$225,000 in funding for eight different programs at James Logan High School along with over \$173,000 for ten other youth and non-profit programs in Union City. For our program alone, a ban on this fundraiser would mean a loss of over \$63,000 each year and would decimate our program!

Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci has instructed the City Manager to hire a professional polling firm to call, text and email registered voters in Union City beginning this coming Monday to purportedly gauge the community's support for her effort to ban the sale and use of the State-Approved Fireworks we sell each year as our primary fundraiser. The city is also conducting a public webinar on Thursday, September 23, 2021, where city staff will make presentations, but we, along with other Union City nonprofits, are not being allowed to contribute or participate in the information that will be broadcast.

Currently, city staff is working on proposed ordinance amendment options that will do the following:

- Reduce the number of hours for legal use of State-Approved Fireworks from its current 3 hours (8:00 PM to 11:00 pm) on the 4th of July to 2 hours (8:00 pm to 10:00 pm).
- Make the use of illegal fireworks a misdemeanor, increase the fine to \$1,000, enact a Fireworks Social Host ordinance to permit the city to cite property owners for use of illegal fireworks on their property. Remove the word "infraction" from the city's existing fireworks ordinance to allow the issuance of \$1,000 administrative citations for use of illegal fireworks.
- These proposed changes in the city's fireworks ordinance will be brought before the City Council for discussion and adoption in a matter of weeks. While we support Options #2 and #3 above, Option #1 defies common sense. It would compact the use of the State-Approved Fireworks we sell from 3 hours to 2 hours for no logical reason.

#### **HERE ARE THE FACTS!**

**- State-Approved Fireworks are not the problem in Union City...Illegal Fireworks are the problem! If State-Approved Fireworks were a problem in Union City, don't you think you would be given local statistics of fires and injuries?**

**- Banning the sale and use of State-Approved Fireworks will not lead to less illegal fireworks, it will lead to significantly more illegal fireworks. Just look at our neighboring cities of Oakland and Fremont where all fireworks are illegal.**

**- The reality in Union City is that under the current city ordinance, State-Approved Fireworks may only be used from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm on the 4th of July each year. That means there are just 3 hours out of the 8760 hours that make up each year that these fireworks are legal to use in Union City. If banning them would solve the city's illegal fireworks problem, why does the city have illegal fireworks being used to the balance of the 8,757 hours each year?**

**- Reducing the number of hours for the legal use of safe and sane fireworks from 3 hours to 2 hours on the 4th of July doesn't make sense. It would compact the use of almost \$400,000 of State-Approved Fireworks into 2/3 of the current time. If any change is made to the hours of use, it should be to expand the hours and/or days of use, not compact use into a shorter time period.**

**I SUPPORT SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS IN UNION CITY!**

**From:** Rita Haskin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** Lauren Sugayan <[LaurenS@UnionCity.Org](mailto:LaurenS@UnionCity.Org)>  
**Subject:** Message regarding fireworks discussion

***WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.***

Hi, Lauren. Please forward this e-mail to City Manager Joan Malloy, Police Chief Jared Rinetti and Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci. [E-mails I've sent in the past to J. Malloy and J. Rinetti never received responses. If you forward this, then I know they'll for sure receive the message. FYI - the one I sent to the chief months ago was about the constant illegal fireworks going off.]

Rita

Dear Union City Leaders:

I'm happy that you're having a community discussion regarding fireworks but unfortunately, I'm unable to participate so I'm sending you my comments.

The use of illegal fireworks in Union City over the past few years around Independence Day and New Year's has escalated and nothing appears to be done to diminish or eliminate them. I live near Arroyo Park and have noticed that the fireworks are regularly set off in the same area (between my neighborhood and Civic Center).

Increasing the fine for using illegal fireworks won't decrease the use because only a small number of citations are given out compared to the number of illegal fireworks. The supply of illegal fireworks needs to be cutoff. I'd hope that our city would join with others to make a real impact in confiscating illegal fireworks. I was heartened to see some agencies on the Peninsula doing just that.

Please make sure that the community discussion this week isn't just focused on July 4 because the problem is much bigger than that. In late May, I started noting when illegal fireworks went off within a mile or two of my home (see data below).

I've always been a champion for our city and have supported and voted for every measure it placed on the ballot. This year's experience with daily explosions has had a strong impact on quality of life in the city. My dog suffered every time there was a boom.

I look forward to seeing how you'll decrease the use of illegal fireworks. The city may be compassionate but it's not as nice a place to live anymore.

Rita Haskin

### **2021 Illegal Fireworks Use in Union City**

5/31: 6:59p; continued through the 10 o'clock hour

6/1: 7:36p; a round of bottle rockets at 8:26p; lots of booms @ 8:44p; another volley @ 9:40p.; 11:34p bottle rocket

**From:** Ryan Stark  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:37:00 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Brown <[AnnaB@UnionCity.Org](mailto:AnnaB@UnionCity.Org)>  
**Cc:** Terry Hardie <[thardie@gmail.com](mailto:thardie@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Fireworks Safety/Sales

Hello Anna, per the city meeting on 2021-09-23 at 6PM regarding fireworks here is my written public comment:

I am a fifth generation bay area native and have been a Union City resident for six years in Seven Hills, east of Mission Boulevard, where all types of fireworks are illegal. Every year there are fireworks going off in the apartment complex and condo parking lots, in the streets, and in backyards in my neighborhood where there should be none. Before the pandemic these would be mostly isolated to the weeks around the fourth of July with a big increase on the fourth including non residents coming in from elsewhere and setting fireworks off at the top of Appian way. Since May/June 2020 there have been fireworks going off every weekend and sometimes every weeknight. The quantity of illegal fireworks is so extreme on the fourth that every year I have to choose between sedating my dog or packing up and leaving town with the hope that no one burns my house down while I am away. I have stood by with a fire extinguisher and hose at the ready while my neighbors up the hill managed to burn down a fence, while someone set fire to the empty lot at the top of Appian way, and while the hill above the seven hills park (next to my house) was set ablaze eliciting a multi engine fire response for ACFD. I have even chased teenagers out of the open space along the back of Riviera Drive who were setting off illegal roman candle fireworks into the hills ~ the police had no units to spare to make an arrest and had these children started a fire it would have been difficult to contain given the terrain. When the fourth of July is over the leftovers and debris we find in the streets and parks are from both illegal and safe and sane fireworks despite none of them being allowed east of Mission Blvd. Given the flagrant violation of the law, frequent misuse of safe and sane fireworks, and the persistent droughts ravaging the west coast there is no longer a case for any amateur fireworks simply put conditions are too dry, fuels too numerous, and resources spread too thin.

Union City needs to take urgent action to:

- 1.) Stop the sale of all fireworks in the city.
- 2.) Increase the penalty for illegal fireworks possession and use to at least \$1,000

The use of illegal fireworks is so rampant and the city so overwhelmed that the sale of all fireworks must be halted so that a clear message is sent and so that the police can issue meaningful citations under a zero tolerance policy.

Detractors to the ban of fireworks often cite the loss of funds to schools, youth sports, and community organizations; the rest of Alameda County and the bay area somehow manage to find other funding sources year after year. I challenge them to find and offer literally any other fundraising source. This debate is not about funding for programs, it is about safety and quality of life.

Thank You,  
Ryan Stark  
Seven Hills, Union City, CA

**From:** Terry Hardie \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:11:28 PM  
**To:** Anna M. Brown <[AnnaB@UnionCity.Org](mailto:AnnaB@UnionCity.Org)>  
**Subject:** Fireworks comment

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hi,

I live at 228 Appian Way.

I would like to make the following comment regarding fireworks in Union City:

Union City is unable to enforce even the current ordinance banning illegal fireworks and banning fireworks east of Mission Blvd. Even when I called police and showed evidence of my neighbor launching illegal fireworks, their comment was "And what do you expect us to do about it?". This attitude from the city and the police department is very disappointing. I believe the only way to deal with this is to switch to a complete ban, and enforce a zero tolerance policy and fine property owners a significant fine.

Terry

**From:** M Silva \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** Joan Malloy <[JoanM@UnionCity.Org](mailto:JoanM@UnionCity.Org)>  
**Subject:** THE NERVE

Miss Malloy;

How can you, the mayor and the city counsel have the nerve to send out this piece of garbage to us after the war zone we all just lived through because NONE OF YOU CAN GET the job done and ban fireworks. We need to start a petition to have all of you recalled or fired for lack of doing your job to make this a safe city. It is appalling, how can you not fix this year after year and still sleep at night, the rest of us can't sleep. Take the money from this fake survey, put out because none of you know what is going on in our town, and use it for more police and better ways to fix our problems. If you can't see what's wrong here then leave.

You are too inept to comprehend the problems.

Many of us have written or talked to the Mayor??? and she doesn't reply because she has no idea how to fix this. Seems like you are all following the leader. Can't wait till election and we will all be out to fix this mess.

A very concerned citizen, Marilyn Silva

## Fireworks in Union City

suzaja

Wed 10/20/2021 11:43 AM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

Regarding the major firework problem we have here a good start would be to end the safe and sane so-called fireworks.

If we continue to be one of the only cities that allow these Union City will continue having this growing problem.

This is

like an open invitation that ALL fireworks are allowed here. More and more people don't seem to know the difference.

And stop thinking this is a Decoto problem. Somehow I get the feeling that this is the case. I live on Regal Dr and have

watched this neighborhood get worse every year. Many households on this street blow off illegals for HOURS. Not one cop have I seen in the five or so years this street and others nearby like Medallion have gotten so bad.

I'm in terror every year that my house is going to catch on fire. My roof and yard are full of the debri. It's only a matter of

time before there is a major fire on this street from the amount of illegal fireworks that go off here and are clearly stockpiled in peoples homes and garages.

Please get a little more serious about this. It is not enough to come up with new ordinances. They have to be enforced.

A very concerned home owner

## Fireworks in union city

cserrano527@aol.com <cserrano527@aol.com>

Wed 10/20/2021 12:45 PM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

Dear City Clerk,

Thank you for letting us voice our concerns over the fireworks in Union City.  
Every year the illegal fireworks on the 4th have gotten so bad that I dread this holiday.  
My neighbors and I have even talked of moving it is so out of hand !  
What used to be a fun holiday has turned into a terror.  
Please outlaw ALL fireworks, before houses burn down.  
Thank you,  
Cathy m Serrano

## Support for Union City Council virtual meeting 10/26/21 proposed changes to city fireworks regulations

Lan Hoang

Sat 10/16/2021 12:32 PM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

Hello Union City Clerk and Council Members:

I hereby support the proposed changes to city fireworks regulations, including a total ban on fireworks.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Union City residents.

Lan Hoang

Fireworks: in favor of increasing the fine

Karen Lingel

Sat 10/16/2021 5:46 PM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

I'd also be in favor of jail time for people lighting illegal fireworks. I'm in favor of making all fireworks illegal.

How many fines were issued in 2021?

My thanks to the City Council for considering this matter.

Typos inserted robotically by droid.

## Fireworks - Feedback

Nikki Prinz

Sat 10/16/2021 9:01 PM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for welcoming community feedback on the discussion of fireworks.

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), in 2017, over 12,000 people were injured by fireworks badly enough to require medical attention. Of those injured, 50% were children and young adults under the age of 20. Furthermore, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year. Fireworks can quickly ignite clothing and dry brush, causing serious risk to personal safety and increased potential for wildfires.

While the Union City police department has the best of intentions, it is virtually impossible to catch someone in the act of igniting an illegal firework or "safe and sane" firework during an unapproved time. Repeated loud explosions that occur weeks before and after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday are detrimental to some members of the community, including those with PTSD, babies and pets. According to Union City leaders, in 2021, there were 169 reports of illegal fireworks use. Only 26 of these resulted in citations. This means less than 16% of reported cases were fined, not to mention the **dozens** of incidents that were not reported. Additionally, there were many fires causing damage to property. Frankly, it is not the best use of police and fire staff to manage the ever-increasing usage of fireworks.

Additionally, some community members leave the remains of their fireworks celebrations in the streets, causing unsightly and dangerous litter.

While many of us have long enjoyed the experience of fireworks celebrating the holiday, we would argue that the risk is no longer worth the danger to the community. Many Bay Area cities have instituted professional fireworks shows so that the community members are able to enjoy a fireworks display while remaining safe and localizing the noise disturbance to a few hours.

We urge city officials to consider limiting the use of fireworks in Union City including the elimination of "safe and sane" fireworks to increase public safety, decrease fire hazard and reduce the cost of clean-up.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,

Nathan and Nicole Prinz

Union City, CA

Sent from my iPhone

## Fireworks

**Maria Cortez**

Sun 10/17/2021 3:34 PM

**To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>**

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

My opinion is we totally ban fireworks just like the city of Fremont. It is good for the air and the environment. We should also be addressing homelessness. Let's use tax money for these issues. Thank you for listening.

Sent from my iPhone

## Fireworks regulations

Ibrahim Shah

Mon 10/18/2021 10:57 AM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

Good morning,

I am a Union City resident for past 20 years and it is time to be strict with illegal fireworks. In my opinion fines of \$1000 is nothing, it should be \$ 10000 or make them pay more if damaged are more than that.

Have a great day.

Ibrahim Shah

## Fireworks

mary anne crestó

Mon 10/18/2021 11:34 AM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

PLEASE ELIMINATE ALL FIREWORKS. THEY GO OFF YEAR ROUND CLOSE TO MY TOWN ESTATES HOME. Thank you for making this city a saner, happier place to live. Former Senior Commissioner Crestó

## Fireworks Reg Changes

Gregory Smith

Mon 10/18/2021 11:47 AM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

Hi,

I hope this finds you and your family safe and healthy.

I am all in favor of increasing the fines.

I fully support limiting the use of fireworks to July 4. My only question concerns enforcement, as in how are we going to enforce this ordinance when the police won't respond to calls today?

Gregory Smith  
Union City

## Illegal Fireworks

Larry Gissible

Wed 10/20/2021 9:29 AM

To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>

**WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.**

I strongly support the proposal to increase the fine from \$100 to \$1,000 for illegal fireworks and to make homeowners responsible for their guests. Use of illegal fireworks is out of control. It is like a war zone. This ordinance may cause some people to stop using illegal fireworks. Thank you.

Larry Gissible

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Illegal Fireworks

CLARK

Thu 10/21/2021 1:14 PM

**To: City Clerk <Cityclerk@unioncity.org>**

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Dear City Clerk,

We are pleased to see that the City Council will consider an ordinance that would increase fines for the illegal use of fireworks from \$100 to \$1000.

We have been in touch several times with the Mayor, Carol Dutra-Vernaci, to let her know how serious a problem we consider the illegal use of fireworks in terms of safety, peace of mind, and mental and emotional stress.

We are long time Union City residents and are in support of this increase as a necessary step. We would also like to suggest a hotline for reporting illegal fireworks and offering a reward leading to the citation of those using them.

Thank you for inviting our input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Robert and Marsha Clark