2015 Firework Regulation Options

Workshop Follow-Up

September 14, 2015
Vancouver City Council Workshop

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Presentation Overview

• Review Legislative Framework
• Review Follow-up Questions from 17 AUG 2015 City Council Workshop - Fireworks
• Review and discuss potential City Council options related to fireworks sales and use
• Council Discussion / Next Steps
Fireworks Update - 3

Current Sale Dates: July 2\textsuperscript{nd} through July 4\textsuperscript{th}
Current Use Date: July 4\textsuperscript{th}

• Under Washington State Law, RCW 70.77, any changes in fireworks regulations require 365 days notice.

• Council must take action by \textbf{May 23, 2016} in order to have a new ordinance in place and effective for the \textbf{July 4, 2017} holiday
Follow-Up Questions

Review Costs Associated with Fireworks

• VFD Fireworks Stand Permitting Expenditures
• VFD Firework Permit Stand Fire & Life Safety Plan Review and Inspections
• VFD Firework Stand Verification of Site Clean-Up Inspection

Total Permitting and Fire Inspections - $7,950
Review Costs Associated with Fireworks

- Fireworks Enforcement Campaign
- Deputy Fire Marshals / Law Enforcement
- Legal Processing – Citation / Hearings

Total Legal / Enforcement $19,000 - $23,000

Firefighter Staffing (June 28-July 5)
Total - $107,034
Estimated Damage Loss - Fires

![Graph showing estimated property loss from 2006 to 2015]

- 2006: $276,500
- 2007: $4,800
- 2008: $2,600
- 2009: $3,600
- 2010: $2,800
- 2011: $36,450
- 2012: $278,800
- 2013: $30,000
- 2014: $5,000
- 2015: $574,378
## Follow-Up Questions

Estimated Damage Loss from Fires June 28 to July 5, 2015

Types:
- Structure Fires
- Vehicle Fires
- Brush-Grass Fires
Follow-Up Questions

Are any other cities considering changes to their firework ordinance?

Have there been challenges to the emergency fireworks ban?
Follow-Up Questions

Would elimination of sales/use impact the fireworks display at Fort Vancouver?

- Show cost $318,000 in ’15
- 8 city stands generated $88,137
- With no legal fireworks, attendance might increase which would increase gate revenue

Trust would work with community/city to fill the gap
Follow-Up Questions

Income of non-profits / retailers within the City

No information available at this juncture
**Ordinance Options Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>No change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Restrict firework types</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Increase restrictions on firework sale dates and/or use hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Emergency firework ban</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Complete ban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordinance Options Overview</td>
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<td>---------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>#1 No Change</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pro:</strong> Continues to allow use of pyrotechnic devices to celebrate Independence Day; provides a fundraising opportunity for some non-profits</td>
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<td><strong>Cons:</strong> Continued fire risk; continued use of staff time for firework stand permitting; inconsistent with other large cities within the state; incompatible with density/growth; subject to changes in State fireworks regulations</td>
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#4 **Provide ability to enact emergency fireworks ban**

**Pros:** Ability to reduce fire risk based on drought or other unsafe conditions

**Cons:** Significant loss of revenue for retailers and non-profits due to short notice; increased enforcement required; increased firework storage issues (pyro products in homes)
#5 Complete fireworks ban

**Pros:** Reduced fire risk; eliminates staff time for firework stand permitting; consistent with other large cities within the state; recognizes urban density/future growth; less confusion on the firework laws

**Cons:** Major change in policy; reduces traditional Independence Day celebration activities; loss of revenue to fireworks retailers and non-profits; would likely take a year of education and enforcement to result in behavioral changes
Advisory Vote

2016 Special Elections

- February 9 - filing deadline December 11, 2015
- April 26 - filing deadline February 26, 2016

Special Election Costs = $160,000*

* If this is the only issue on the ballot, less if there are other issues
City Council Discussion

Next Steps / Direction

- No change
- Emergency ban
- Advisory vote
- Complete ban
Questions and Discussion

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