

AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 6th, 2016
CBJ Assembly Chambers – 6:00 p.m.

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter	Action Requested
6:00 pm	1. Call to Order	Chair, C. Mertl	
	2. Agenda Changes		
	3. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items		
	4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 2nd, 2016 <i>[Page 3-8]</i>		Motion to approve
	5. New Business		
	6. Director's Report	K. Duncan	
	7. Unfinished Business • Fireworks in CBJ Parkland - o Staff Report <i>[Page 9-21]</i> ▪ Board Member Supplemental <i>[Page 22-35]</i> ▪ Public Submitted Emails <i>[Page 36-117]</i> ▪ Public Submitted Information <i>[Page 118-251]</i> - o Public Comment/Testimony - o PRAC Discussion/Motion		
	8. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports • Chair Report • Liaison to the Assembly Report • Liaisons: a) YAB b) Aquatic Facilities c) Jensen-Olson d) Lands e) 1% for art f) Treadwell • Other Partners: a) JNU Urban Forestry b) Eaglecrest c) TrailMix d) Park Foundation • Other Member Business	C. Mertl M. Gladziszewski T. Rutecki T. Rutecki E. Ouder Kirk C. Mertl J. Anderson C. Mertl C. Mertl O. Brudie B. Farrell C. Mertl	
7:30	9. Adjournment		

AGENDA SYNOPSIS
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 6th, 2016
CBJ Assembly Chambers – 6:00 p.m.

This meeting is envisioned to be a single issue meeting having to do with the use of fireworks in CBJ parks and lands managed by the Parks & Recreation Department. Public comment on fireworks will be taken under Unfinished Business. The public can comment on non-fireworks related topics under the Public Participation of Non-Agenda items

The meeting will be called to order, a roll call will determine if a quorum exists. Assuming a quorum exists, the Chair will ask for any agenda changes, ask if any member of the public wishes to participate on non-agenda items, the committee will vote to approve the August 2, 2016 minutes. The Chair will ask for any new business and then open the fireworks topic beginning with a staff report on page 9.

The public will be asked to present any information they wish to make public concerning the use of fireworks in parks. The Chair may place a time limit on individual presentations (two or three minutes for each person depending on the number of people who wish to testify).

The chair will close public participation once everyone has been allowed to testify. The committee may put a motion forward, the committee will debate the motion and either vote to make a recommendation to the Assembly or take no action.

DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 2nd, 2016
CBJ Assembly Chambers – 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson; O. Brudie; B. Farrell; T. Gilmour; C. Mertl; E. Ouderkirk; C. Prussing; T. Rutecki

Absent: F. Dowd

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

Guests Present: Skye Stekoll, Engineering Project Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items – None.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 1st, 2016 & May 3rd, 2016 –

March 1st, 2016: Motion by T. Gilmour to approve, no objection. **Minutes adopted.**

May 3rd, 2016: Motion by T. Rutecki to make an addition under New Business, Fireworks Policy in Parks. Power Point presentation by C. Prussing, want to add the title of her presentation “Proposing fireworks being prohibited in parks”. Motion by T. Rutecki to approve, no objection. **Minutes adopted.**

V. New Business

A. Introduction to new PRAC members:

C. Mertl: Welcome to Brett Farrell and Chris Prussing, our two newest PRAC members.

B. Farrell: I have been in Juneau about 15 years and I'm a retired coast guard. My interests are area wide with all things parks. They're a great asset to this community and I hope I can play a part in making them even better.

C. Prussing: I'm a member of the Thane Neighborhood Association Board. My main interest here is discussing a park out Thane near the new Tlingit Haida Cultural Center (old Ore House). We have been discussing with them about attaching a few more pieces of shoreline with the existing city property there in order to enhance the whole cultural center concept.

B. Lena Loop Land Disposal:

K. Duncan: Referencing photo on P.14 in the packet. This piece of property is not accessible by land, only by sea. There is a private road that comes down to give access to all those properties but we do not have any right on that road. The two adjoining neighbors at some point in time would like to purchase this land and I have no objection. First this has to go through the appraisal process and then the PRAC recommends whether to dispose it or not and then it goes to the assembly.

T. Gilmour: Is it going to go up for bid? What does it have to do with Parks land?

K. Duncan: It's not a buildable lot. It's our piece of land, we control it.

E. Ouderkirk: What happens to the funds that get generated from the sale?

K. Duncan: Traditionally they would go into the lands fund.

C. Mertl: Odin, Josh and I went through and looked at different parcels that might be considered for disposal. I would rather avoid spot disposal of parkland. Mr. Duncan, do you have pressure to make a decision on this immediately?

K. Duncan: Absolutely not. This is an information item that will come out of the Master Planning process.

C. September PRAC meeting date change:

C. Mertl: Mr. Duncan will not be here for the first Tuesday of September. I'm not available for the second week. What does everyone's schedule look like for September?

O. Brudie: I will be out of town for the whole month of September but can make myself available by phone.

E. Ouderkirk: I have a work commitment the week of the 12th

C. Mertl: I think it is important that if we do get into fireworks in September that the Director is here.

K. Duncan: The managers have become involved in the fireworks discussion, please be aware that Fireworks may become a non-agenda item come September. The managers office would like to take this to the Committee of the Whole on August 15th and have a discussion amongst themselves but there will be no public testimony at that time. They would draft an ordinance at some point of time or not depending on what they decide to do. So we may be planning a September meeting that might not happen. If that's the case, there is nothing wrong with me not being here for the Sept. 6th PRAC meeting.

D. Discussion about handling fireworks in the September meeting/Introduction to PlaceSpeak:

L. Verrelli: *Played introduction video from PlaceSpeak.* PlaceSpeak is our new community outreach platform that anyone can join and their privacy is guaranteed. The only requirement is for people to register with their address so we can observe which neighborhoods are leaning towards one subject or another in our discussions and polls. Users are able to easily navigate the site, educating themselves on the topic at hand, voicing their concerns in the discussions and participating in our polls. Currently we're working on launching our *Fireworks in Parks* topic which is separate from our Master Planning topic. We will promote PlaceSpeak on our website and our Facebook page.

K. Duncan: It has been pointed out that missiles are not allowed in parks. Is a missile a firework? That is an issue; it would have been easier if they had said aerial fireworks but they didn't. One of the issues with fireworks is that police cannot issue tickets unless they see someone lighting the fuse. We need to talk about procession of fireworks in parks and work on changing the ordinance.

C. Mertl: The Assembly will be having their preliminary discussion on fireworks where they will decide how they want to move forward. They may tell us that our services are not needed and they will deal with everything at the Assembly level. We can't ban fireworks on managed park lands without the approval of the Assembly. Is that correct Mr. Duncan?

K. Duncan: Correct.

C. Mertl: Mr. Duncan has let the Assembly know that we would be a willing vehicle, if so directed, to host a forum for discussion on fireworks. It's already being discussed at a higher level than the PRAC and let's see what happens.

T. Rutecki: I was in contact with the City Manager and he told me the Assembly has asked for an ordinance for consideration. If we're going to regulate fireworks, it would be by date, time, type, and location. They will draft an ordinance, sometime in the next month and if PRAC wanted to continue the discussion about fireworks in parks that would be fine. It could be complementary or we could wait and see what the Assembly does.

C. Mertl: I think it may be premature for us to start talking about fireworks in the September meeting. If Mr. Duncan is out of town at the same time, we might want to push it to October meeting when we

have full participation. I think we should wait until we get activated by the COW, if we get activated at all. But we will let them know we're willing to assist if we're needed.

C. Prussing: If the Assembly decides to take it up at the mid-September meeting that could leave us without a position if we wait. If they want input from Kirk and the PRAC, then I think we should be prepared and not stall around with public input.

B. Farrell: I assume the way this committee works is that we come up with ideas, we provide advice to Kirk and in this case it could be something like we advise you to write a letter to the Assembly recommending that fireworks be prohibited in parks. We put that on agenda if that motion pass, the public knows what we will be talking about at the next meeting and they can attend.

T. Rutecki: I think we should be prepared to go forward with this in September based on what happens in the COW meeting because we already have started this conversation. The City Manager did say that if the PRAC wanted to continue with the discussion that would be fine.

C. Mertl: Do we just wait till the 16th and see what the COW asks of us, if anything?

O. Brudie: I would suggest us to keep it on the agenda for now and as it always can be pulled.

E. Ouderkirk: If on the 16th we hear from the Assembly, yes they do want to move forward with some sort of ordinance and they have a draft of what that ordinance is, that will be much easier to respond. I think the question is if we want to make it a public testimony item or hear what the Assembly says, so the PRAC is adequately informed with what the Assembly is thinking because ultimately the Assembly makes the decision. Put it on the agenda as an agenda topic.

C. Prussing: I don't see the value of public input in general to the PRAC on fireworks if the Assembly is drafting an ordinance. The Assembly of course is where people should be directing their opinions on fireworks use in the borough. In the meantime, if we have PlaceSpeak up and running we can tell the public that if they have opinions on fireworks in parks, that this is the way they can add their input so they don't have to attend a PRAC meeting. It could be an informational item on the agenda with the public directed to PlaceSpeak to voice their opinions.

K. Duncan: PlaceSpeak is ready to go and will be launched on Tuesday, August 9th. We can simply state the PRAC may be taking comment at the September meeting and we will make that determination after the COW has met. Then it will be determined if they want to take it on or if they would want a recommendation from us. If they want to take it on, we can hand over the information we have gathered.

VI. Director's Report – K. Duncan

A. P&R Master Planning update:

K. Duncan: On page 15 you have a statement about the Master Planning process. On PlaceSpeak we're planning on talking about each one of our facilities and services, give people information with what we do. There will be a series of 10 or 12 geographically oriented public meetings in October with PRAC being one. We plan on taping a public meeting (KTOO) and put that on our website for people who do not want to attend our public meetings. We will distill all the information we get from the public meetings, PlaceSpeak, from our phone survey and present our preliminary plan to the PRAC in April 2017. A final plan which will be presented to the Planning Commission and Assembly the Spring of 2018. Our concept is what do we want to look like in 10 years?

B. Commercial Use Permit:

K. Duncan: Currently we do commercial use permits every two years which doesn't seem very user friendly. I think we should be doing commercial use permits every year. We're going to be working on cleaning up and making suggestions for all of the P&R ordinances between now and December.

E. Ouderkirk: Would you create a priority for those permit holders who have had permits in the past?

K. Duncan: We would give priority to the group that has done it before and look to see if there is capacity for another group to do it as well. I would suggest that a group who comes in with a business

plan and files for a commercial use permit that meets our criteria has the possibility of having the permit for 5 years. Another information item, currently no action is needed at this time.

C. ADA motorized mobility devices on P&R land:

K. Duncan: We have to allow motorized devices on our trails but can specify certain criteria, for example, we do not want any vehicle going over 5mph. This is currently under review and we're trying to figure how we're best going to address it.

Discussion about Kax trail from pervious PRAC meeting.

D. CIP Six-year Plan:

K. Duncan: This is something that will be coming out of the Master Planning process. This 6-year plan is to let you see what has been proposed at this point of time. Only the current year (FY17) has been funded, everything else has not been approved yet. The other years provide some direction of where the department is going. Currently do not need any input from PRAC.

E. Trees at Treadwell

K. Duncan: The Treadwell Historical district received \$150,000 from CBJ to put a new roof on the old office building. They want to protect the old office building and remove about 20 cottonwood trees around it. There is some communication from an individual that is not fond of losing those trees included in the packet. I do not have a lot of issue with removing these trees, only that when we take them down, they need to go out. The Treadwell Historic Society has been in contact with Gold Rush Days and they're interested in this timber. *Discussion on buffer trees.* We marked the trees letting the public know that we're taking them down.

C. Merti: I have no objection with cutting down these cottonwoods. Cottonwoods are the highest likely tree to become a hazard.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Update on fill project underway at Gold Creek & Bridge Park:

S. Stekoll: *Presents PowerPoint provided in packet about the Seawalk from Bridge Park to Gold Creek.* We split the project up into three separate phases. Phase 1 is completed and went smoothly, which is called the bulk fill portion of the project, cost about \$2.5 million. It included fill around the whale area and the fill for the island. Currently we have done the foundation for the whale and done the piping for the pool. *References slideshow.* We started Phase 2, which is the pile drive and Seawalk portion. Phase 3 will be bid shortly and that is the finishing touches which includes the park, concrete, pool and all the plantings. The whale will be delivered in a couple weeks and will be up in place mid-August. To clarify the whale was donated and sales tax is paying for the whale related infrastructure and the marine passenger fee is paying for the rest of the project.

C. Merti: Has the city engineering and the whale committee worked on a strategy for this intricate water feature and how it will be operated/maintained? We just have some concerns on the funding for the maintenance of the facility seeing as we're the number one department for getting budget cuts.

S. Stekoll: That discussion has begun; most of those details will get worked out when we get into the pump room and the control system for that. We do have all the funding to finish this project, from the bridge to Gold Creek.

B. Adair Kennedy Master Plan:

S. Stekoll: *Presents PowerPoint provided in packet about Adair Kennedy designs.* We have been working on a Master Plan for Adair Kennedy. We settled on Adair being the place where we would have turf fields. We had Jensen Yorba Lott come up with a few designs for us. We have been sending around the designs to the user groups and hoping to get more comments back in the next

month or so to finalize the master plan. Getting adequate signage of the park is very important and we plan on cutting down trees to help eliminate needles on the turf field and keeping the fields from staying frozen longer. Other plans include a covered play area, potential dog park, changing room for teams, play area, and sledding hill. The parking lot will be redesigned heavily so it works best for Floyd Dryden and Adair Kennedy.

C. Gunakadeit Park: *S. Stekoll has no update on Gunakadeit Park.*

C. Mertl: Does the PRAC have any questions on Gunakadeit Park?

O. Brudie: Is it possible to do some conceptual planning for a park there?

K. Duncan: We just planted some vegetation this week and we're going to complete the fencing around the transformer.

C. Mertl: Even if we just move the chain-link fence to the Parks & Rec boundary and just put it as gravel and allow vendors to be there. Make it usable but we don't necessarily have to plan any features in it and just let it be a temporary open space.

Discussion on original reason park was removed.

J. Anderson: I motion that the Parks & Rec director moves the fence to the park boundary and develop a low budget conceptual plan for temporary use of the park during transition. **Motion passes.**

D. [Addition] Dimond Park Restroom/Concession Update:

S. Stekoll: North Specific, the project manager, had some supply issues. The first was some mechanical component which added a 4 week delay that held up a lot of work. We took down the drinking fountain to tie in the water and that was predated to the delay. The other delay was with the steel fabrication. The original completion date was September 2nd which is pretty optimistic; my guess would be that we're looking towards the end of September.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report—None

C. Liaison Reports—

YAAB – T. Rutecki: None

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: We just had the 1 year anniversary for the board. We lost Greg Williams on the board but took on Charlie Williams. The new point of sales system has been implemented. Soon you will be able to find a food service at DPAC. There are some negotiations going on with vendors for packaged sandwiches. We just finished the Gaguine Foundation for a Youth in the Pool summer program where 150 kids were given scholarships to swim in the pools. The ASAA high school championship swim meet is going to be here at the beginning of November.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—E. Ouder Kirk: None

Lands – C. Mertl: Been focusing a lot on housing for Jackie Drive. They targeted all the priorities for housing opportunities throughout the borough and working with Parks & Rec land was one of there targeted priorities.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

Treadwell – K. Duncan: Treadwell submitted there annual report and it was well received by the Assembly. Revenue was up 5%, labor cost was down 5%. Very successful season, up a 67% cost recovery. Ice is going in as we speak.

Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None

Eaglecrest – O. Brudie: None

TrailMix—C. Mertl: G. Laundry is no longer with us who used to cover TrailMix and State Parks. Who wants to cover TrailMix? B. Farrell offers to take over, removing State Parks.

[New Addition] Park Foundation—C. Mertl: They had their elections and Ian Fisk is the chair. They signed their memorandum of understanding with the Juneau Community Foundation. The park foundation is now legal, under the community foundation as a 501C3.

D. Other Member Business –

- C. Mertl: Board training is coming up, please sign up.

Adjournment – 8:49 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

DRAFT

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 8/24/2016

Staff Report on Fireworks

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and CBJ Parks & Recreation staff were approached to restrict/ban all fireworks year round in the areas managed by the Parks & Recreation Department. CBJ Parks & Rec staff initiated a new software package entitled PlaceSpeak. The public was asked to comment on five different proposals related to fireworks use on CBJ Parkland.

The options were:

- #1 – Allow unrestricted use of fireworks in CBJ Parks
- #2 – Completely ban possession of fireworks in CBJ Parks
- #3 – Partial ban – Restrict fireworks over a certain size
- #4 – Partial ban – Restrict fireworks a specific holidays and before a specific time
- #5 – Partial ban – A combination of #3 and #4

As of August 23rd, 2016, 30% favored #1, 2% favored #2, 3% favored #3, 16% favored #4 and 30% favored #5. 937 people have visited the site, 106 people have connected and taken the poll and 45 comments have been submitted. It is important to note that people can only vote once by using PlaceSpeak unless people get very creative. 30% favor the status quo and 70% would like some action concerning fireworks. It is up to the PRAC to recommend to the Assembly what action PRAC would like to see taken in regards to fireworks in CBJ parks.

The Police Chief, Bryce Johnson, testified to the PRAC at the March 1, 2016 meeting. At that meeting, he stated that it is nearly impossible to cite someone for fireworks violation in regards to the noise ordinance as the possession of fireworks are not currently illegal. To have any enforcement capabilities, possession of fireworks in the parks would need to be made illegal in conjunction to whatever act the PRAC wishes to take, if the PRAC decides on some level of restriction of fireworks in parkland. Such an ordinance would need to be developed at the Assembly level .

The PRAC can craft whatever recommendation to the Assembly the PRAC wishes in regards to use of fireworks in the parks and P&R Department managed lands. The CBJ Assembly will be taking up the discussion of fireworks in the near future for Borough wide action on fireworks.

The following motion was drafted for consideration:

The PRAC requests that the CBJ Assembly make CBJ parks fireworks-free areas, consistent with state and federal parks practice. This could either be a simple modification of section 67.01.090 of our municipal regulations to include fireworks in the category of hazardous missiles prohibited in parks, or as part of an ordinance modification specifically targeted to the management of fireworks use borough-wide. Public input about consumer fireworks use in the borough has led us to suggest this as a proactive measure to prevent noise disturbances from parks affecting nearby residential areas, as well as concerns for public safety

The PRAC can make a recommendation to the Assembly or take no action. The Parks & Recreation Director will be out of town and the Superintendent of Park Maintenance, Building Maintenance and Landscaping will be attending the meeting.

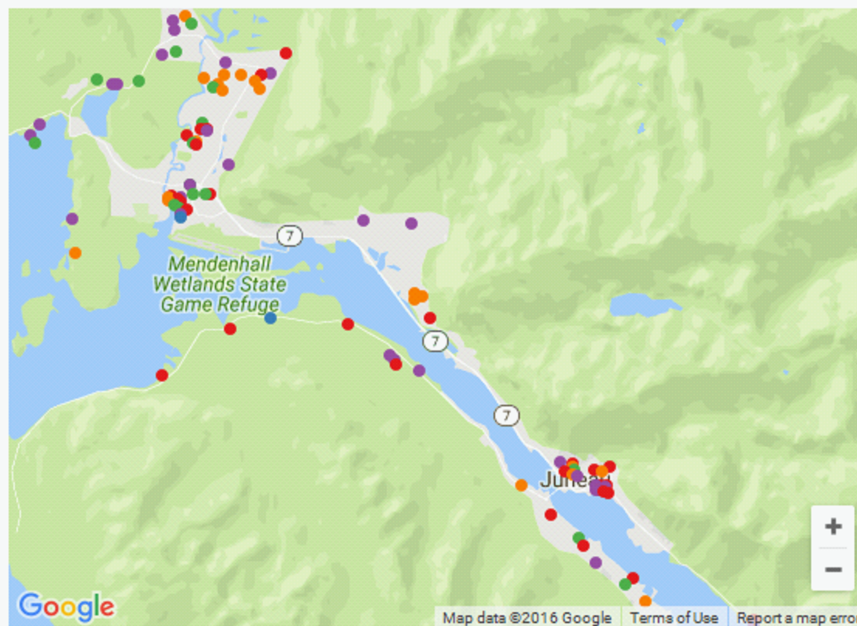
Polls as of 8/24/2016

Fireworks in Parks

Should CBJ ban fireworks in city-owned parks? - Total responses: 105

Choice	Number of responses
5. Partial ban - Combination of options 3 and 4	32
4. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks to specific holidays and before a specific time	17
3. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks over a certain size	3
2. Yes - Completely ban possession of fireworks in CBJ parks	21
1. No - Allow unrestricted use of fireworks in CBJ parks	32

Poll Results



1. No - Allow unrestricted use of fireworks in CBJ parks

30%

2. Yes - Completely ban possession of fireworks in CBJ parks

20%

3. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks over a certain size

3

4. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks to specific holidays and before a specific time

16%

5. Partial ban - Combination of options 3 and 4

30%

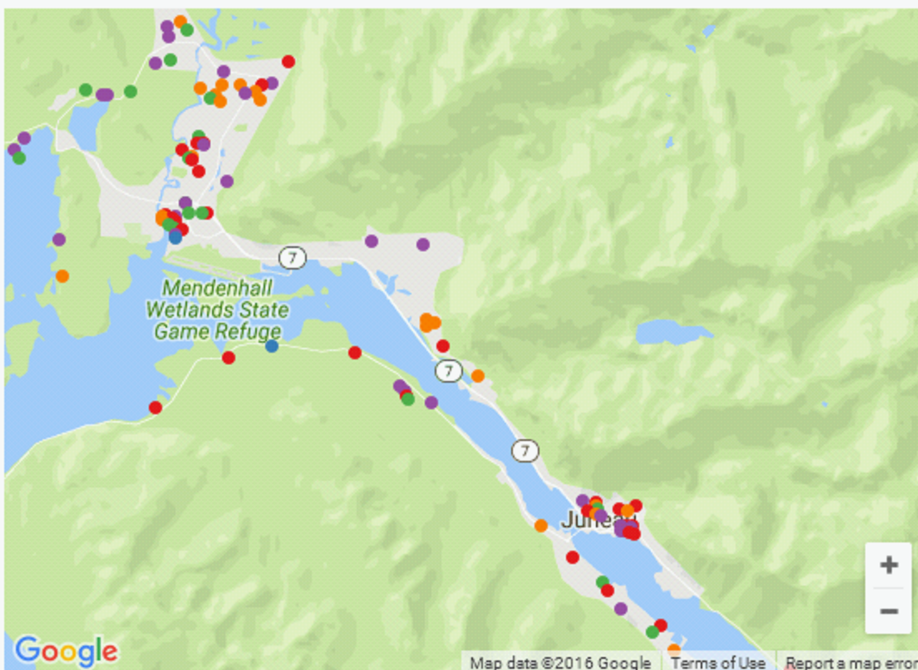
Polls as of 9/6/2016

Fireworks in Parks

Should CBJ ban fireworks in city-owned parks? - Total responses: 109

Choice	Number of responses
5. Partial ban - Combination of options 3 and 4	33
4. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks to specific holidays and before a specific time	18
3. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks over a certain size	3
2. Yes - Completely ban possession of fireworks in CBJ parks	22
1. No - Allow unrestricted use of fireworks in CBJ parks	33

Poll Results



1. No - Allow unrestricted use of fireworks in CBJ parks

30%

2. Yes - Completely ban possession of fireworks in CBJ parks

20%

3. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks over a certain size

3

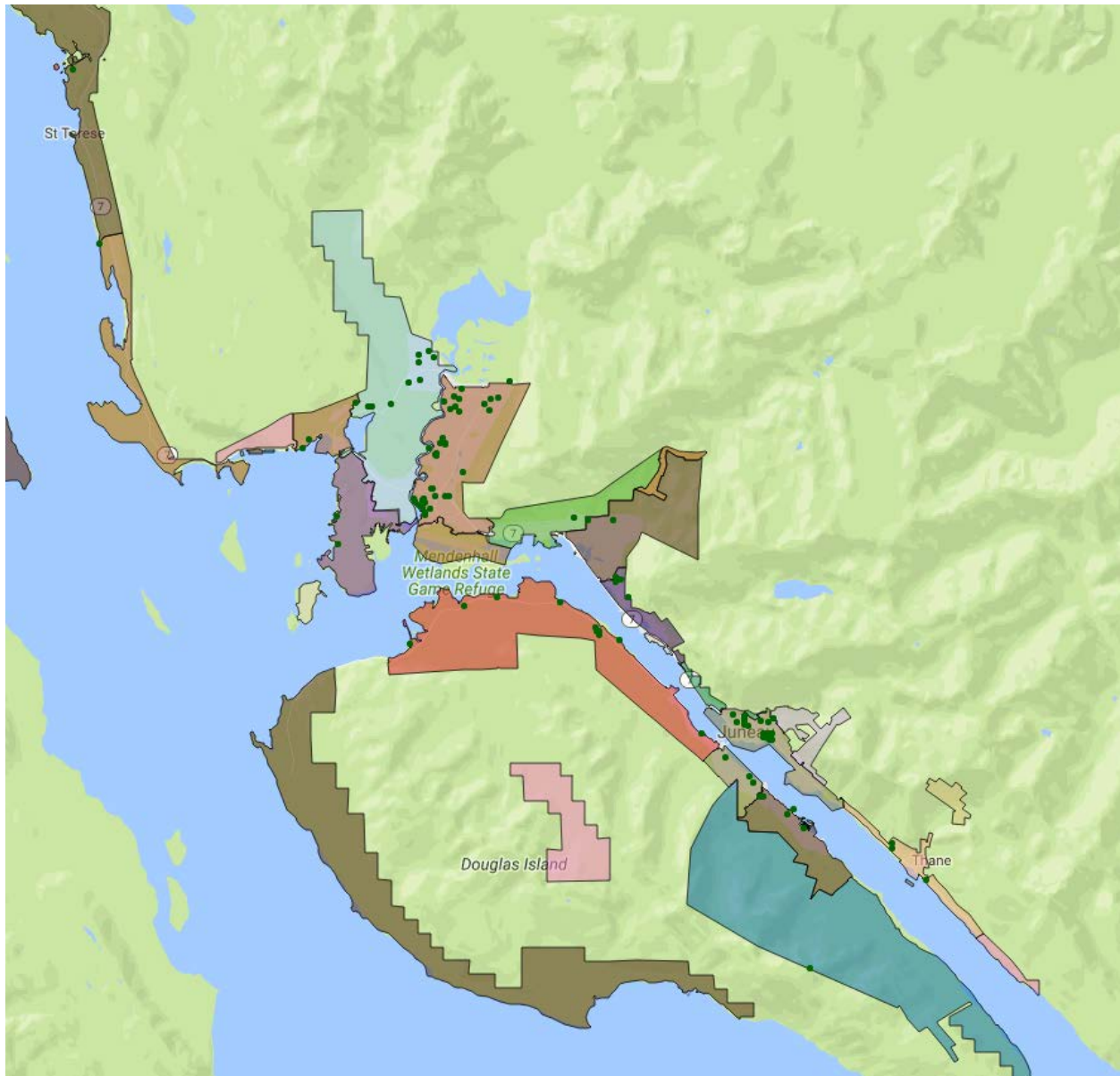
4. Partial ban - Restrict fireworks to specific holidays and before a specific time

17%

5. Partial ban - Combination of options 3 and 4

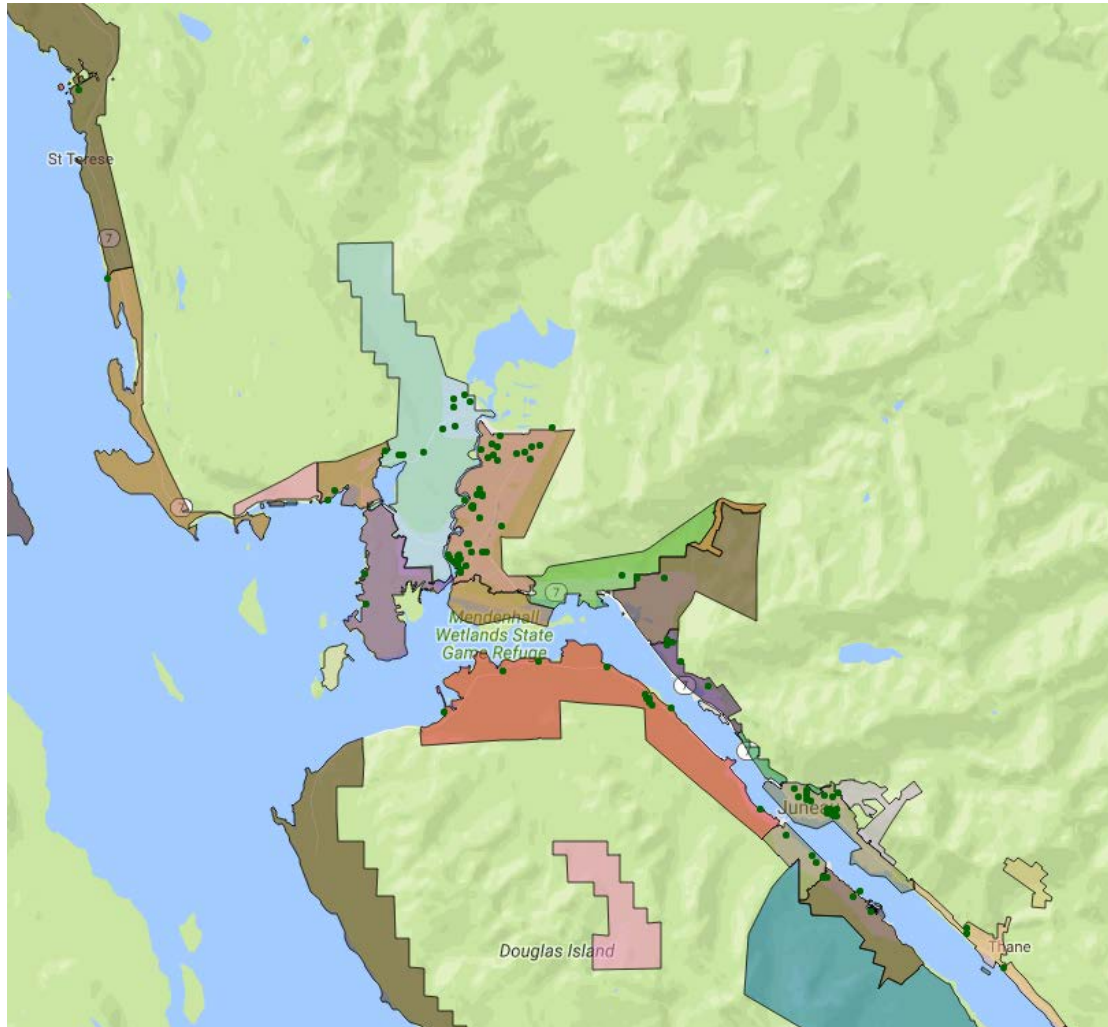
30%

Topic Connections on PlaceSpeak as of 8/24/2016



Topic Connections as of 8/24/16	
Neighborhood/Area	Count
Airport	0
Auke Bay	2
Douglas	5
East Valley	36
Glacier Hwy past Cohen	2
Juneau	22
Lemon Creek	2
Mendenhall Peninsula	2
Non-Resident	3
North Douglas	10
Remote Areas	1
Remote Douglas	0
Remote Mainland	0
Salmon Creek / Vanderbilt	4
Shelter Island	0
Switzer Creek	1
Taku River	0
Thane	3
West Juneau	3
West Valley	10
Total Connections:	106
Total Page Views:	941
Comments:	45

Topic Connections on PlaceSpeak as of 9/6/2016



Topic Connections as of 9/6/2016	
Neighborhood/Area	Count
Airport	0
Auke Bay	2
Douglas	5
East Valley	38
Glacier Hwy past Cohen	2
Juneau	21
Lemon Creek	2
Mendenhall Peninsula	2
Non-Resident	4
North Douglas	11
Remote Areas	1
Remote Douglas	0
Remote Mainland	0
Salmon Creek / Vanderbilt	5
Shelter Island	0
Switzer Creek	1
Taku River	0
Thane	3
West Juneau	3
West Valley	10
Total Connections:	110
Total Page Views:	1018
Comments:	45

Discussions and Noticeboard

Fireworks in Parks

Discussions

Should the CBJ restrict the use of fireworks in parks?

Should the CBJ ban, partially ban, or allow the use of fireworks in city parks?

Groove hard - **Thane**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 1

Beware the vocal minority. Those who do not take to expressing an opinion or poll should be interpreted as leaving the laws as they are now. The more laws you make, the more criminals you produce.

Joann Flora - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 0

Yes. But in the interest of compromise I would be happy if fireworks were made available as public displays run by trained, permitted individuals and limited to NY Eve and July 4th only, between set hours. Have one event in town and another out toward Auk Bay. Small, traditional fireworks might be ok in the neighborhoods. However, bottle rockets and other flaming, flying explosive devices should be banned completely except for professionally managed shows over the water. While we do live in a damp climate, fires can start when the weather dries out. In my neighborhood, rockets are shot over the houses. Completely unacceptable. Right now, fireworks are exploded for weeks before and after the two main holidays, and at any time someone feels the urge. Friday, August 19th, 8:45 pm, we had a barrage of explosions in my neighborhood. I've heard them as early as 3 pm. It's bad enough they sound like they hit the house, but I worry the living room windows will break from the percussion if not an errant flying object. And in Juneau, there's no place to get away. I've tried. Even the motels at the airport are too close to the explosions. When will it be enough? Is it not enough that people with autism and PTSD suffer through these events? Is it not enough that those with long term illnesses suffer from the stress of explosions around them? Is it not enough that small children, the elderly, and household pets are traumatized by the bombing? There's no place to go to get away. I spend each of those holidays trying to drug my dog senseless and sit on the bathroom floor with her trying to help her feel secure. These events cause me vet bills, dog meds, thunder coats, motel rooms, stress, and I never, EVER get to enjoy the holidays myself. Isn't that enough? Fireworks have gotten completely out of hand in size, volume and duration and it's time to make it stop. What is particularly unfortunate is the number of people who won't speak up because they fear retribution by the firebugs. We take all manner of verbal abuse over this issue. So they suffer in silence except among others like them with terrified pets, frightened family members, and locked in the their homes hoping it will end soon. It never does. This July 4th, the explosions were so bad that whenever I leave the house, my dog hides in the bathtub. You never know when the next one will hit. Not acceptable.

Jason Seifert - **North Douglas**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 3

Keep them unrestricted. The noise ordinance should be able to address those who are launching fireworks outside of normal hours. If the noise ordinance doesn't have enough teeth, revisit the noise ordinance.

Joann Flora - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 0

The noise ordinance is completely unsuccessful in addressing the problem. There are too few police to manage the number of complaints and they have to catch a person actually lighting them off in order to fine them. It's a big FAIL.

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 6

Option 3 is somewhat misleading. Size is important, but a loud report and hazardous missiles are more an effect of whether the fireworks are aerial types rather than ground fireworks. Mortars and rockets and cakes that boom and sound like like gunfire Vs. fountains and crackers and small roman candles that pop and crackle. Both are fire and burn hazards, of course.

Alexandra Pierce (Administrator) - **Juneau**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

Thank you for your feedback. The intent of the question is whether we should limit fireworks based on specific characteristics (i.e. power, ground vs. aerial, noise). There are a number of considerations in this area, but we tried to keep it simple to avoid having a poll with so many options that it distills the value of the results.

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 3

A few members of our Assembly and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board have expressed this sentiment: "We cannot ban fireworks in parks, because then fireworks will be used in neighborhoods. Fireworks users will have nowhere to go." Douglas is a neighborhood already notorious for residential fireworks use. A Douglas resident recently offered large fireworks for sale at the Facebook group Juneau Buy Sell Trade, perhaps in ignorance of the 2011 ordinance prohibiting sale of fireworks in Juneau. And those who've read our compilation of Empire articles will recollect the one in the picture below, plus these comments from the online survey we did earlier this year: "They shoot them off from their houses. They land on my roof, in my yard etc. The police will need to enforce no residential." "It's gone way beyond ridiculous in Douglas, I can just imagine what it's like out in the Valley. What makes people think it's ok to explode large firework shells above their neighbor's home, at all hours and on and off for days." "I live in Douglas and am tired of JPD never doing anything about the drunks who come stumbling out of Louie's and light fireworks off in the Gas station parking lot." In Douglas of course there is plenty of beach and tidelands where people naturally think to go if a next-door neighbor requests that they lay off the fireworks in their yard: "We get fireworks every year but unlike some of our friends that shoot them off in their neighborhoods pissing off all those around them in their densely populated downtown Douglas area we shoot them off at the beach." So it is likely that those who think the major source of fireworks noise is parks are in fact imagining Savikko Park. Savikko, of course, is adjacent to Sandy Beach, is within walking distance of much of Douglas, but has plenty of parking for those who want to drive there. It's also a popular spot from which to view the midnight public fireworks show from the barge in the channel. What they do not have in their mental picture is the Valley, where parks are embedded within residential areas, and there is no beach. The shoreline of Mendenhall Lake, especially near Skater's Cabin, seems to be an occasional spot for non-neighborhood fireworks, despite the fact that it is Forest Service land and fireworks are not permitted. Campground hosts are the only staff on hand, the rangers evidently working 9-5 M-F, not during evenings and weekends, the times when fireworks are of course used. Nonetheless, despite the availability – even if illegal – of Forest Service land, the majority of Valley fireworks use is in yards, driveways, and streets out front of homes. Valley parks are not seen as an alternative place for fireworks, due to the entirely accurate view that their close proximity to residences makes them pretty much the same as a backyard or street. We do have one account of the ball fields at Lena being used for fireworks (from someone who picked up bags of trash and litter the next day), despite the comparatively low residential population density in that area. Nonetheless, some residents bordering Lena cove likely also shoot off fireworks from the convenience of their shoreline properties, as well as (illegally) from the Forest Service portion of the Lena beach – we have an account of a bottle rocket sailing out of the trees there and exploding near poor grandma's head. In sum, very few fireworks users are taking themselves away from the convenience of their own decks, yards, and driveways, and see nothing wrong with shelling their neighbors with booming noise and flaming debris. Almost no one is using parks unless a shoreline (ocean or lake) is within a convenient distance and shooting fireworks off over the water seems like more fun. The question arises, "Why should park visitors be subjected to the hazards and noise of fireworks any more than residential neighbors?" Parks users cannot retreat into their homes to sit out a fireworks barrage.

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 2

Campbell is reasonably confident, however, that JPD would be able to better enforce a fireworks ban in city parks if one were to be issued. Because such a ban could prohibit people from possessing fireworks in a public park, Campbell said that police officers could ask people with fireworks to leave parks or seize the fireworks if need be. JPD has no such authority when it comes to the noise ordinance because it's the use, not possession of fireworks, that is illegal.

<http://juneauempire.com/local/2016-07-03/will-be-last-fourth-july-fireworks-are-allowed-city-parks>

Joleen Langel - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 2

I support fireworks use in public parks. Opponents of fireworks will say, "What about disturbing the people who live there?!" More often than not, people who live near parks bought their homes AFTER the park was built – buyer beware, so to speak. Those of us who live near parks (like me) are well aware of the pro and cons that come with living near a public park or facility. Every time the JD Bears score during a football game, I can hear the cannon go off. That's part of living in the heart of the valley. I can see the lights from Thunder Mountain's turf at night. That's part of living in the heart of the valley. Sitting on my deck enjoying my morning coffee, I can hear the Hank Harmon Rifle Range. That's part of living in the heart of the valley. When I bought my house, I knew that with there would be noise, light pollution, and traffic. It's called being tolerant; clearly a foreign concept for some. The occasional impromptu firework display doesn't bother me, veteran husband, kids, or three dogs. There

aren't as nearly many people disturbed by fireworks as the anti-firework crowd would like the CBJ to think. I am for continuing to allow fireworks use in public parks.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 2

Today's fireworks came after the CBJ building codes were adopted and CBJ building codes were not developed to keep the level of noise made by these fireworks out of our homes. And every property owner should be able to use their property as intended per zoning law - even on holidays. Our residential areas and Parks are supposed to be safe places for families. There are many public safety and welfare concerns with allowing explosive devices in Parks and in residential areas. A few assembly members are either unaware or simply willing to ignore these safety issues and put people in harm's way. The people having problems with the fireworks are deserving of informed comprehensive thoughtful non-discriminating analysis of this problem. In 2012 the assembly had a chance to fix this problem and didn't. Now we have an opportunity. Other communities in Alaska are protecting their residents from these fireworks and Juneau residents are deserving of the same protections. CBJ staff (Admin, JPD, CCFR, Law) are all on board and want this addressed. They recognize the public safety and welfare concerns but not all of the assembly members are on board. (edited this until I get clarification). As far as living in the Valley. JD Bears actually lowered the noise made by that cannon because of complaints and the gun range is about a mile away and on higher ground so the noise from the gun range pales in comparison to the explosions made by the fireworks. When we bought home in the Valley we did not expect to have explosives going off in our neighborhood or near my home. In fact there were no fireworks until around 2010. The explosions are unreasonable, they prevent me and many other people from being able to safely use our neighborhood, property and the explosion prevent us from being able to enjoy the holidays in our home.

Cynthia Dau - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 1

Yes, buyer beware. For those that have sensitive children or even sensitive pets. Those that have different schedules and can't even abide a rooster living down the street, buyer beware. But there is no disclosure required re this topic, nor are there records readily available if one were to even think of looking into such disturbances prior to purchase or signing a rental agreement. Maybe this is something we can work on and those that may find this activity disturbing can rethink their choice of location.

Joleen Langel - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 1

Call an audiologist or a sound engineer and ask how sound waves work. They dissipate over distance travelled... Good effort, Loraine. Close but no cigar! If a person lives near the airport, those sound levels are "violated" every day. If you live near a road that a Harley drives down, those dBs are out the window. Guess what?! Motorcycles and airplanes are more prevalent than fireworks! So are loud car stereos and barking dogs. In the past two months, I've heard fireworks MAYBE twice. It's not an everyday occurrence. It's rare. You're just an overly sensitive whiner. Sorry to say it but it's true.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 0

Hi Joleen - I would just point out that there is a huge difference between impulsive type noise and noise that you can hear coming like with a motorcycle. You can hear the motorcycle coming from way down the street. Explosions are jolting, abrupt, high intensity and intermittent. If you look at studies impulsive noises are judged to be the most problematic type of noise for people. If I am not mistaken airport noise is regulated by the FAA. And our city does regulate noise from car stereos and barking dogs. If you look at the noise ordinance it specifically states that if you can hear noise emanating from a car at 30' - it's illegal. The noise level from fireworks begins at 145 dB. No family should ever be subjected to this level of noise.

Joleen Langel - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 1

Lorraine - your logic is flawed. Building code today does not require homes to be sound proof or even reduce sound below a specified decibel. Where do you get that idea from? People who violate the no rooster ordinance are more of a public nuisance than fireworks. Roosters crow every single day. Fireworks aren't lit in your neighborhood every single day. Chicken coops are more of a health and welfare concern than fireworks - they attract bears. People wrecklessly burning in their backyards cause more damage to person and property than fireworks have. There just aren't stats to back up your version of the "facts". Sorry, fireworks just aren't as disruptive and dangerous as you contend.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 3

Guidelines regarding noise can be researched online. For example, Google healthy noise levels. I just did that and this was

the first thing that came up: "Harmful Noise Levels-Topic Overview - WebMD

www.webmd.com/brain/tc/harmful-noise-levels-topic-overview WebMD Normal conversation is about 60 dB, a lawn mower is about 90 dB, and a loud rock concert is about 120 dB. In general, sounds above 85 are harmful.." "Dangerous Decibels » Noise- Induced Hearing Loss <http://dangerousdecibels.org/education/information-center/noise-induced-hearing-loss/> " If a sound reaches 85 dB or stronger, it can cause permanent damage to your hearing." The reason we have building codes is to safeguard public health, safety, and general welfare. I am not finding any recent changes to our building codes that would mitigate the impacts of this new noise source - explosions from fireworks used near our homes Our city adopted the International Residential Codes which states: An acceptable indoor noise level limit for residential areas is 45 dB. Guidelines for noise in residential areas established to protect our health: The limit for noise in outdoor areas with human activity is ideally 55 dB; daytime noise should not exceed 73 dB, because noise above 73 dB puts our hearing at risk. Nighttime noise levels should not exceed 55 dB. Fireworks start at 145 dB which is extremely unhealthy for humans and surrounding wildlife. 145 dB is roughly 10,000,000 times more powerful than 73 dB. Our community regulates noise via the Disturbing the Peace Ordinance. Noise from fireworks "disturbs the peace", inside and outside our homes and in Parks. Our noise ordinance states that if you can hear music emanating from a vehicle at 30' it is in violation of our noise ordinance. A CBJ goal is to keep Juneau families safe and reduce conflicts between residents, fireworks are in direct conflict with these two stated goals. Residents should be able to safely use their property, neighborhoods, and Parks even on holidays.

Joann Flora - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

When I bought my home in the valley, several blocks from a park, I had no reason to expect July 4th & NY Eve would sound like a war zone, and that the explosions would go on for weeks before and after the holidays. I've never experienced anything like what goes on here. These are not the traditional backyard fireworks, they are bigger, louder, and have more percussive impact with each holiday. It has reached a completely unacceptable limit. It's about more than "disturbing" people. It's about terrified children, traumatized household pets, and negative effects on those with PTSD, autism, and other illnesses that goes on for weeks and weeks. It's out of control.

Cynthia Dau - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 1

Our parks have language banning many activities. One of the activities banned is 'missiles'. What is P&R's(or CBJ's) interpretation of a missile? Does it have to do with the 'charge' or that inability to control the direction once launched in a public place and/or near homes and property? Please explain.

Joleen Langel - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

Lorraine - your logic is flawed. Building code today does not require homes to be sound proof or even reduce sound below a specified decibel. Where do you get that idea from? People who violate the no rooster ordinance are more of a public nuisance than fireworks. Roosters crow every single day. Fireworks aren't lit in your neighborhood every single day. Chicken coops are more of a health and welfare concern than fireworks - they attract bears. People wrecklessly burning in their backyards cause more damage to person and property than fireworks have. There just aren't stats to back up your version of the "facts". Sorry, fireworks just aren't as disruptive and dangerous as you contend.

Cynthia Dau - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

I didn't make the comment on building code so I won't address that. But Jolene, consider this for a moment. There's been fox farming, gardens of fish fertilizer, chickens and rabbits in Juneau far longer than there have been fireworks here. And yes, bears come with the territory. If a family wishes to supplement their food source and protect their hens with a rooster, let them do it. Isn't one of the biggest arguments, 'it's my property'? But no, the limit is 6 chickens. And no roosters. 'Farm' animals are also controlled. Interestingly, there are rules for that. When it comes to open burns, you can call the fire department and complain, and they roll right out to address the concern. They check for the responsible party, permits (come with education), and proper burn technique. If one of those items is missing, the fire is extinguished. There are rules for that. I am going to refrain from slighting your opinion. Mine (ours) is on record. We HAVE incurred damage and we have witnessed a horrific personal injury on two different occasions, both while visiting Sandy Beach. And we came extremely close to an awful event occurring with my beautiful, involved, Juneau born, elderly mother when she felt up to a picnic at Lena. She and her new eyes (cataract surgery) were very close to someone's bottle-rocket when pop/BANGED close to her face. We thought we'd be good if we stayed away from Sandy Beach. Nope. And there are rules for that. I'll refrain from speaking to our neighborhoods and homes too much. I prefer the professional show. This year's was spectacular aside from the personal use fireworks being shot up and exploding at our level. It was intense and it was not enjoyable for any of us. We have also had 'neighbors' set off fireworks with a memorable dud that came right at our homes and exploded, at

gutter level, between us and our closest neighbor. A few feet one way or the other would have been a window. We have a dog, once strong and steady, that 'broke' because of this neighbor. She now wants to run hearing any firework, no matter what size. My heart also goes out to a neighbor with a special needs child that is terrified by fireworks. Especially now that they've moved and the fireworks now explode in front of her window. But there are no rules for that? I won't continue on the homes/neighborhoods issue here. The bottom line, in my humble opinion, is that we should be safe in our parks. There's already a 'no missiles' policy. Children, pets, my family, anyone, EVERYONE deserves protection from this kind of hazard. I don't know what kind of 'stats' you might be looking for but it is our fervent hope that our leaders provide the protections we all deserve.

Alexandra Pierce (Administrator) - **Juneau**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

The interpretation of a 'missile' is up to JPD. Under the current regulations, in order for JPD to cite someone for lighting off something construed as a missile in a park, they would need to witness the individual setting it off.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 4 | Downrated: 3

Sad to see members in our community, who are not seriously impacted by the use of fireworks because of where they live (out past Cohen drive and out N. Douglas) poo-pooing the problems many people are having with fireworks. I don't mean to be disrespectful. I agree we are all entitled to voice our opinions. But we are not entitled to hurt other people and these fireworks are hurting people in our community in ways that some people may not realize. There are no parks in Juneau where families would not be impacted by the explosions. All parks are surrounded by homes.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 1

The only agenda I have had for the last 4 years regarding fireworks is to protect my family Rick. My family has not been able to look forward to and enjoy the holidays for years, now the abuse that I have lived through in my neighborhood is overflowing into our public Parks. If CBJ is going to use public input to create a fireworks policy then I would like for CBJ to know where people live that are pushing for unrestricted use of fireworks. This seems like a fair and reasonable request to me. I do apologize though if I have offended you. I am just sticking up for my rights not to be bombarded by explosives for hours and days at a time. I do edit a lot and I hope that all my edits are not going into everyone's inboxes. If they are I apologize for that as well. Off for now, bye.

Rick Driscoll - **Glacier Hwy past Cohen**

Uprated: 3 | Downrated: 3

So sad to see people disenfranchise other people based on where they live. I'm a member of this community, just like everyone else and I'm entitled to my opinion. Despite what you may believe, there are plenty of fireworks out the road. And I have a dog that is terribly afraid of loud noises. So I understand the issue. I just feel there a lot of bigger issues in this town that our police force should be focusing their attention on, real crime, than to have them involved in petty disputes with their neighbors about fireworks. This is a seasonal issue, not one that necessitates changing simple law. If you want to curb the use of fireworks in your neighborhood, call a community meeting. Talk about the issue. Get to know them. Problem solve. Don't rely on the police or city to do it for you. People want to just complain to someone else rather than communicate directly with the people that cause the problem. Kill them with kindness, be the better person, earn their respect, most will come around when they know how it affects you. Or move. You can expect a rational headed person who will attempt to work with you if you came to my neighborhood. We don't need new laws to solve simple problems.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 2

How many neighbors do you have out the road Rick? I am a member of this community too, and my family has been disenfranchised from being able to participate in our common holidays and community activities because of the loud explosive fireworks in my neighborhood, which has well over 1000 homes. So where you live does matter and I will add that not everyone has approachable neighbors. There is no worse use of our limited resources than having an ambiguous fireworks policy. *****Residents deserve a policy that protects their families from hazardous noise levels, from explosions, and from unguided exploding projectile devices. *****And restricting fireworks would make JPD's job a whole lot easier because most residents are law abiding citizens, JPD should be able to handle the few among us that would intentionally break a firework law. Note a comment from COW 2012 meeting on fireworks: "Ms. Crane suggested that if there was a law banning fireworks, the majority of people would comply and it might cut down on the number of complaints. She asked if such a law would be helpful for enforcement. Asst. Chief Decker said yes". JPD can't control what's going on now, imagine what it will be like in a year or two, not only for residents but for JPD & CBJ. The other part of this is why is CBJ allowing an activity in our residential areas and Parks that is so incredibly hazardous if they can't control it? It makes no good sense and it puts people in harms way. The fact is hazardous noise levels from explosions, and unguided exploding projectiles do

not belong in our Parks or residential areas. If CBJ wants to create a Pyro Park at Eaglecrest or somewhere away from people - then great. This gives people a place to go and set off their fireworks and it allows the people that need to avoid fireworks - avoid them. Hazardous products should not be forced on people. Fireworks have been restricted in most other communities because fireworks are hazardous, Juneau residents are also deserving of protection. CBJ policy should not put the public in harms way or work to exclude residents from CBJ Parks or from being able to participate in the holidays with their families. We all matter. This is about fairness, equal rights, and human rights. We all have a right to be free from fear in our community, neighborhoods, and homes and we all have a right not to be subjected to hazardous noise levels, explosions, or unguided exploding projectile devices. CBJ please consider where people live when reviewing their comments. I don't think it is fair to allow fireworks in Parks when the Park is surrounded by homes. And I don't think its fair for the people who are not seriously impacted by the fireworks to say - let it rip CBJ.

Lorraine Murray - [East Valley](#)

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 1

I need to fix this. I should not have edited my comment. I did so because I appeared to have offended someone and I did not want to re-offend so I tried to soften it up and clarify it. Ugh. But I realize now I should have just left it alone. Good reminder and lesson. So I will post my original comment and along with the edited version. Honestly, I would rewrite the whole thing if I could but will just leave it alone. My apologies. Original comment: Sad to see members in our community who are not seriously impacted by the use of fireworks because of where they live (past Cohen drive and out N. Douglas) are pushing them on people who are seriously impacted by fireworks. You folks get a big frowny face :(There are no parks in Juneau where families would not be impacted by the explosions. All parks are surrounded by homes. Edited comment: Sad to see members in our community, who are not seriously impacted by the use of fireworks because of where they live (out past Cohen drive and out N. Douglas) poo-pooing the problems many people are having with fireworks. I don't mean to be disrespectful. I agree we are all entitled to voice our opinions. But we are not entitled to hurt other people and these fireworks are hurting people in our community in ways that some people may not realize. There are no parks in Juneau where families would not be impacted by the explosions. All parks are surrounded by homes.

Rick Driscoll - [Glacier Hwy past Cohen](#)

Uprated: 3 | Downrated: 3

You keep editing your posts to fit your agenda and as a means to misconstrue my comments. As a result, I have no interest in debating you anymore on this issue. I will say this, my opinion is as valid as yours, and your attempts to invalidate mine based on my location, taking it as far as asking CBJ to "please consider where people live when reviewing their comments" is shameful. Goodbye.

Timothy Harris - [West Valley](#)

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 1

I do not use fireworks but I do enjoy watching them. Understanding everyone's concerns is a amicable but not practical. I am a citizen who has to work and agrees that prolonged celebration into wee hours of the night can be a bit taxing when you have to go to work in the morning. The size of the fireworks I do believe has caused some normally laid back opinions to become a bit more practical toward safety concerns. In order to be fair and practical I believe that trying to meet everyone's concerns in the middle might show some improvement on the situation. Allowing fireworks on certain days and times would keep this from being a impossible situation for JPD to monitor when the holidays can already be a busy time. Thus giving them a couple of days to deal with more pressing issues. Once the holiday is over this can allow JPD more time to try and enforce the ordinances in place. It would not be practical to ask JPD to monitor firework use on or day before or after. We all know they do not have time or the man power. Now the other side of this would be JPD needs to find some time or resources to restrict the use of all fireworks outside the designated dates and times. This crap of I have to see it is absurd. You can go off of a witnesses word in all other criminal cases so another option would be to take what we already have in place and find a way to make it work. I think tweak it would be appropriate. No need to make something so difficult. Allow fireworks on holidays within an acceptable time frame maybe a day before and a day after. Untie the JPD hands and let them give out some fines and let them do their job. BTW.... I do not find it acceptable to be shooting off mortars in public parks where there is children present. Just my thoughts!

Klay Strand - [West Valley](#)

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 1

I feel that using fireworks only on the holidays is a good guideline. People want to celebrate and have fun and thats fine. But what happens when get people using them on a regular night mid week, interrupting peoples sleep, causing fear and worry for people, a lot of people dont take others into consideration (some do but most dont) at least during say new years and the 4th people expect and are prepared for fireworks. And if you can use whatever fireworks during any time of the year there is always a liability issue in todays world with regards to lawsuits etc, id rather not have my city sales taxes go towards legal battles because someone wasnt safe and felt that the city should have had stricter laws and guidelines.

Chris sperry - **East Valley**

Uprated: 4 | Downrated: 2

JPD has much bigger problems to deal with! The poll show that that majority of people are OK with fireworks in Parks. Let JPD do their jobs and focus on real problems.

Joann Flora - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

This is a real problem. It costs people time, money, peace, sleep, and it's worse with each holiday. Why are we being subjected to explosion on August 19th? That's not a holiday. Fireworks have gotten completely out of hand.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 4

This is also about future persons. We have a duty to preserve the quality of life in our Parks and in our residential areas for future generations. The policies we create today should not undermine future person's opportunity or their right to experience our Parks and residential areas free of hazardous noise levels and exploding projectiles – even during the holidays.

Joleen Langel - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 1

You're right. The policies we create today shouldn't limit future persons opportunities to enjoy parks. Maybe future people want to enjoy parks with fireworks - why are you trying to limit their enjoyment with your policies?

Chris McDowell - **East Valley**

Uprated: 4 | Downrated: 2

I do not support a fireworks ban in city parks. Enforcement of such a ban would fall to JPD, which already has sufficient discretion and authority under 'disturbing the peace' ordinances to deal with any problem use of fireworks.

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 2

Explosions disturb the peace. Think of OSHA guidelines for noise. Residential areas and Parks also have guidelines for noise levels to protect people and that guideline is no louder than 73dB. Fireworks start at 145 dB which is around 1,000,000 times more powerful than 73 dB. People should not have to wear SWAT gear to protect themselves when they go to CBJ parks and they should not have to where SWAT gear at home or in their neighborhoods.

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 3

Alas, Chris, JPD statistics don't bear that out. In the past two years since the noise disturbing the peace ordinance was adopted, about two dozen citations have been issued for barking dogs and noisy mufflers; yet, out of ten times as many fireworks noise calls to Dispatch, no tickets were successfully issued. So, one must conclude that there is a problem implementing the ordinance with regard to fireworks.

Chris sperry - **East Valley**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 0

JPD has much bigger problems to deal with than fireworks...

Lorraine Murray - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 4

CBJ - Don't do it. Don't take our community down this path, we don't need explosives to celebrate. Today's fireworks are exploding projectiles. The explosions begin at 145 dB, they are not yesterday's popper type firework. Today's fireworks do not belong in our public Parks or in our residential areas. These things are so problematic for people that people are already pitted against each other. We don't need one more problem in our community. Today's fireworks are too loud and dangerous to be used near people. Our city needs to firmly reject the use of explosive devices in our community and promote the ideals of civility and respect for others. I can hardly believe what I am asking... CBJ please don't encourage the use of explosive devices, please don't allow the use of explosives to take hold in our community. Just Say No.

Rick Driscoll - **Glacier Hwy past Cohen**

Uprated: 4 | Downrated: 3

A few rotten apples shouldn't spoil the bunch. Keep fireworks unrestricted. The police have more important things to do with their time.

Rusty Grapple - **Glacier Hwy past Cohen**

Uprated: 7 | Downrated: 3

Keep fireworks use legal in CBJ parks. Does JPD seriously have so much spare time now days that they can respond to

'fireworks in the park' calls?? If that is the case, I need to know why they didn't feel the need to respond to my stolen bike or my car broken into? If they can't be bothered with real crime, why would they be bothered with harmless fireworks??

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 3

Today's fireworks can hardly be called "harmless." We're 'way past weenie little bottle rockets and Black Cats.

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 1

BTW, Brian, is that you? "Rusty Grapple?" C'mon! LOL!

Joann Flora - **East Valley**

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 1

There's nothing harmless about the degree of fireworks we're seeing. They rattle walls and windows, traumatize household pets, small children, the sick, and elderly. When a child loses an eye or a few fingers, will that be serious enough for JPD to get involved? Right now, they're ineffective through no fault of their own. When a bottle rocket goes through someone's window, will that be serious enough? How much do I have to spend drugging my dog, taking her to motels, buying coats purported to calm her before it becomes serious? When she collapses from a cardiac arrest because we're being bombed from three directions will that do it? This is serious for many of us, even if it is not for you. I haven't been able to enjoy one single NY Eve of July 4th since moving to Juneau because of the extreme noise that goes on for weeks and weeks. What will take to get some people to understand this is already serious.

Eric Cole - **Juneau**

Uprated: 6 | Downrated: 3

I absolutely support the right of the public to use legal fireworks within CBJ parks, especially around the New Year's and 4th of July holidays. For kids who may live in apartments or condos, etc- the local park may be the only nearby area they have to use. Fireworks are an American tradition on these holidays. If a family cannot celebrate the 4th of July in a public park with the historic tradition of lighting a few fireworks, then why do we even have parks??

Chris Prussing - **Thane**

Uprated: 2 | Downrated: 4

It's not "a few fireworks" anymore, Eric. It's hours of booming mortar rounds. In the case of Savikko park, the explosions occur at the level of residents' windows. Bombing the neighborhood is hardly "an American tradition."

Chris sperry - **East Valley**

Uprated: 1 | Downrated: 0

I agree! I absolutely support the right of the public to use fireworks in CBJ parks around holidays. Maybe we can get sales of fireworks in Juneau to benefit community groups? Washington State allows the sale of fireworks. Many churches and local charities sell fireworks in Washington to benefit the community.

Noticeboard

Resources - None

Uprated: 0 | Downrated: 0

[Juneau Community Collective Recent Poll Results](#)

The JCC on Facebook recently conducted a poll on fireworks and attached are their results.

We are requesting a recommendation from PRAC to you as Director of Parks & Recreation to request the Assembly consider a prohibition of consumer fireworks in CBJ parks. There seem to be two methods for the Assembly to enable such a prohibition:

1) Modification of the existing Municipal Code for Parks & Recreation under 67.01.090 - Prohibited uses – to include fireworks as prohibited missiles.

2) As part of a more comprehensive ordinance for more effective management of fireworks Borough-wide. As you know, our group is advocating a ban of fireworks in neighborhoods as well as parks, if a return to the former Borough-wide ban seems infeasible to the Assembly.

Hence we have stated our PRAC request to include the second option for enabling a ban of fireworks in parks thus:

- We ask the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to recommend that our Parks & Recreation Director communicate to the Assembly a request to prohibit fireworks in CBJ parks, possibly either via modification of the existing code to include fireworks in the types of missiles already banned in parks, or as part of a more comprehensive ordinance to better manage fireworks throughout the Borough.

After discussion among our members about the issue of a parks fireworks ban on the 3rd & 4th of July, the consensus is that these days be included in, and not excepted from, the prohibition.

Our reasoning is based upon the safety issue involved. Fireworks are not only hazardous as burning missiles and dangerous litter (duds, hot debris), but as a potential cause of hearing loss in young children in infants as well. There is also the danger of panic-stricken dogs bolting and running off, to the distress of their owners. The safety aspect is especially relevant on the 4th of July, when residents typically crowd parks to celebrate the holiday with barbecues and picnics and to watch the public fireworks display. If consumer fireworks are deemed unsafe on other days of the year, they are likely to be even more of a hazard on holidays.

Apart from safety, many residents do not have the luxury of living in a building with an attached yard, and so congregate in our neighborhood parks in order to enjoy some outdoors recreation with their kids and pets. Celebrating holidays in parks with hazardous and noisy fireworks is no more appropriate than drunken disorderly parties, and an affront and deterrent to other park users.

“Celebration,” in other words, is not an excuse for a hazard to public safety and disorderly conduct, both of which we all agree are not appropriate for public parks and neighborhoods.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, June 24, 2016

State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Juneau Area Office
P.O. Box 111071
Juneau, AK 99811-1071



Alaska State Parks in Juneau fully supports the idea of the City of Juneau prohibiting fireworks in city parks. By having the city parks regulations consistent with both the State and Federal parks it would be less confusing to the public and create a safer and more peaceful environment in the city parks for the public to recreate.

Fireworks are prohibited in Alaska State Parks under:

11 AAC 12.197. Fireworks

A person may not discharge a firework in a state park, except as authorized by the director under 11 AAC 18.010.

Thanks for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Murphy
Chief Ranger

Michael W. Eberhardt
Park Superintendent

From: k.capp@yahoo.com
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Fireworks Ban
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 7:55:14 AM

Please support a ban of fireworks in the C&B of Juneau in all our parks and residential areas - no exceptions.

With the fireworks show that the C&B provides on the 4th, there is no reason private residents need to terrorize any neighborhood on that holiday or any other holiday, including birthdays, wedding, and other celebrations.

Karen Capp

From: [Michael Dau](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: ["Firework Juneau"](#)
Subject: Parks & Rec Advisory Committee Meeting May 3, 2016/Fireworks
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 2:29:29 PM

Thank you to the committee for hearing our concerns regarding the general use of fireworks in our neighborhoods and parks. I do hope we were able to convey concerns as posted on neighborhood sites, the Juneau Community Concern Facebook page and a group of us tied together via email regarding this topic. There doesn't appear to be many middle-of-the-roaders when it comes to this issue. And if you're not affected by fireworks over your home yet, I consider you lucky.

It was clear how uncomfortable I am with speaking in public, no matter how much practice time I force on myself. This is a topic of personal importance and, if needed, I'll speak again. We have been severely impacted by the choices of others and their personal use of explosives. Something has to change. We're not the only ones with these stories of shattered glass, a severe injury witnessed, and I remind you, on different occasions. And we're not the only ones with lives disrupted on any given night simply because someone a house over is seized by the fantastic idea of lighting up the sky. This just can't be ok. I'm also troubled by the appearance of 'waiving off' of concern and of the NFPA by our Fire Chief. It's interesting that the CCFR Mission and Vision appear to take exactly these matters into account. That protections are an inherent part of what they do;

***Our Mission:** We serve and protect our community from life-and property-threatening emergencies in a competent, professional and proactive manner.*

***Our Vision:** Our vision is to provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services at the highest level of excellence, professionalism and commitment to the community. Proud of our past and embracing our future, the members of Capital City Fire/Rescue will work as an effective and integrated, team, dedicated to continuous improvement and maintaining a positive environment.*

We would like to see proactivity.

At the risk of being repetitive, how did a loophole in code become a free-for-all for pyrotechnics. And what is 'saleable' fireworks, especially in light of fireworks sales not being allowed in Juneau. And where are these coming from. Ferry? Illegal. Plane? Let's not consider this.

Fireworks are severely disruptive.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous.

And litter? We can't have glass on the beach, but fireworks? And what about that one little shell that gets left behind. Whose child is going to find that? Or that unlucky person/child/pet/property that just happens to be in the way of an errant or dud shell.

And no oversight. Gorrilla Fireworks has more information on safety and surroundings than cbj.

But we have over-site and guidelines for people with firepits?

Even duck hunters are required to undergo training and must be away from the public to discharge their shotguns.

We are two of Juneau's residents that want personal use fireworks banned. If that can't be the case, let's work toward a license of sorts, a permit where someone of authority knows the who, what and where of usage. Someone that can be held accountable. A permit may also require proof of how the materials came to Juneau. A permit should show where, away from homes and property, is an appropriate place for igniting pyrotechnic displays. Maybe certain parks during certain windows of time. Sobriety would be required. Clean up would be required. And maybe most importantly, safety training should be provided to the accountable party.

Please. Let's start here. Your own mission statement says:

To enhance the quality of life in Juneau, the Parks and Recreation Department will deliver a high level of guest service with cost effective operations provided by highly engaged employees.

Personal use fireworks don't fit.
Thank you again for your time and the work that you do.
Cindy Dau
And Mike Dau
2335 Meadow Lane

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Firework Juneau](#)
Subject: Fireworks in Parks, Savikko 11pm closure
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 3:22:13 PM

Thank you, Kirk, and the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee members for your attention to our presentation at the May 3 meeting. I am obliged to remind those who attended that the presentation was the result of a group effort by the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks. I was merely the presenter.

I understand there was some procedural snarl-up in the PRAC vote to close Savikko Park at 11pm instead of midnight. Please re-consider this earlier closure, as the JPD data on fireworks complaints in Douglas show most of the obnoxious activity beginning after 11pm. Hence we suggested an even earlier 10pm closure of Savikko for group activities, as these are the most likely to produce raucous noise and involve fireworks. Parks users not engaged in group activities could continue to walk dogs and enjoy the shoreline scenery until midnight. JPD patrols would likely be more efficient if an officer could oversee park closure at 10 or 11pm, rather than waiting for midnight, a time when other disturbance calls are more likely to come in and officers not as readily available for park complaints.

Allow me to reiterate the difficulties of establishing an effective neighborhood watch, as well as its punishing-the-victims aspect. The Douglas Advisory Board seems to be overly optimistic expecting that simply posting a neighborhood watch sign will encourage residents of the boat harbor to call JPD when noise disturbances occur in Savikko. "Unrealistic" might be an even better word.

While I can understand allowing fireworks in Savikko and along the Douglas beach during the 3rd and 4th of July, a prohibition at all other times seems to be the most prudent approach to protecting public safety and preventing disturbances to the peace. Hence I would encourage the PRAC to forward to the Assembly a letter requesting the prohibition of consumer fireworks in Juneau's parks.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: For PRAC: Fireworks in CBJ Parks
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 4:53:42 PM

Greetings,

I suspect most of you remember me from previous testimony in front of the PRAC involving excessive noise/disturbances originating from Savikko Park. Although the issue of fireworks use in Savikko Park was never a key component of either of my appearances before the PRAC, you may recall that I did address it, and it was discussed between PRAC members during one of those meetings. In fact, I recall one of the PRAC members specifically expressing frustration that “fireworks are legal to use” in CBJ, so not much could be done about it. Like then, I disagree that nothing can be done about this – or any other use of CBJ parks that disturbs others.

I am writing this in full support of the recent initiative to ban the use of fireworks in CBJ parks (*except on very specific holidays*), or at a minimum in CBJ parks located in close proximity to residential areas. You may recall from previous agenda items regarding changing park hours, a frequent opinion was that it’s a shame to punish responsible park users for the actions of a few irresponsible users. Although I still support changing park hours, there is one clear difference between the use of the park for barbeques, parties, walking dogs, etc. and the use of the park as a launch facility for fireworks: It is *possible* to hold a responsible barbeque, party, or responsibly walk a dog. But it is *impossible* to responsibly engage in the act of exploding fireworks in proximity to other park users and/or surrounding neighborhoods. Regardless of the time of day or the safety component, there is simply no way to launch and explode what is recently better defined as “ordinance” than “fireworks”, without disturbing a large number of people either using the park or those of us unfortunate enough to live near the park. I find it ironic that one of the most cited excuses for not changing park hours was because “a lot of people enjoy walking their dogs on the park late at night.” The irony of this is that many of those dog-owners would tell you that their dogs are terrorized by fireworks! It seems that supporting those who want to walk their dogs on the beach at night by keeping the park open later is in direct conflict with any concern for a park user’s “right” to use the park for launching fireworks.

In reading recent comments submitted during a survey of Juneau residents regarding the use of fireworks I was particularly troubled by one response, which I feel the PRAC should be aware of: A Douglas resident opposed any initiative to control the use of fireworks using the “opinion” I mention above (that a few irresponsible people shouldn’t impact the majority of responsible people). In fact, this person claimed to be a “responsible” fireworks user because they don’t use fireworks in their neighborhood, instead they “shoot them off at the beach.” I suspect the “beach” being referred to in this comment was Sandy Beach/Savikko Park. If I’m correct, then this “responsible” fireworks user chose to not disturb his/her neighbors (which is commendable), but sees nothing wrong with disturbing other park users or those that live in the neighborhood and boat harbor immediately adjacent to the “beach.” Unfortunately this mentality doesn’t surprise me. It’s a very common perception is that almost any behavior, even behavior that would be unacceptable or irresponsible in someone’s neighborhood, is perfectly acceptable when it takes place in a public park.

Those of us who feel that irresponsible behavior and/or misuse of public parks should not only be considered unacceptable, but should be rigorously deterred and prevented remind the PRAC that you are “our voice.” We are counting on you to support changes/initiatives to improve the park

experience for the *majority* of their users (not the *few* irresponsible users), and certainly to prevent parks from becoming a nuisance to their neighbors.

Brett Farrell

504 St. Ann's Ave

Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Lorraine Murray](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Re: Fireworks in Parks and residential areas
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 11:58:38 AM

May 10, 2016

Dear Parks & Rec Advisory Committee:

Re: Fireworks in Parks and residential areas

As a 54 year resident of Juneau I can tell you that our community has two serious problems on its hands. The first problem is the growing use of fireworks in our community, and the second problem is the lack of willingness from city officials to take this problem seriously. So I really appreciate that this committee is taking steps to address this problem.

Should we allow people to use fireworks in our parks and residential areas? Of course not! Consumer Fireworks are explosive devices and they displace people from the very places “people” are supposed to be. We want people to be in our parks and in our residential areas and we want people to feel safe and to be safe in these areas.

Users of fireworks do not have 100% control over where their fireworks end up exploding. The wind or the smallest slip-up can send a firework right into someone’s face, yard, or home. Fireworks have landed in my yard and hit my home a number of times. *Not to mention the hours of terror the loud explosions have caused me and my pets.*

The noise level of consumer fireworks registers at 140 db. There are standards for healthy noise levels, so why is our city ignoring that information? Exposure to noise above 80 db is harmful to people and to ignore this information puts people in harm’s way. Guidelines for daytime noise levels in residential areas is 73 db and nighttime is 53 db. Fireworks register 140 db which is 10,000,000 times more powerful than 73 db. Noise from fireworks displaces people, pets, and wildlife within a 1/4 mile radius of the explosion and will cause hearing loss, and acute stress responses in people, pets and wildlife.

Guns, Fireworks / Single Use areas. Fireworks are loud and dangerous enough that they should be restricted to single use areas, similar to how guns are restricted to gun ranges. Gun fire also produces noise at 140 db, which is why people at the gun range use protective hearing devices so they don’t suffer hearing loss. Most people avoid gun ranges because of the loud noise. We don’t want people avoiding our parks or residential areas or to feel like they have to put on protective hearing devices in these areas. Fireworks are also a product that some people purchase to use but this product should not be forced on other people. *Non-users of fireworks can’t get far enough away from fireworks when they are being set off in our parks or in our residential areas, not too be, seriously impacted by the explosions.*

Public Safety. I firmly believe that our city should issue a moratorium on the use of fireworks in our community pending a thorough review on the use of fireworks in our community. On top of the list of concerns that need to be addressed are the impacts fireworks are having on the public (not just buildings). For our city officials to ignore this request is a reckless disregard for the public’s safety and our well-being.

Thank you for reading my letter,

Lorraine Murray

Box 210192

Auke Bay, Ak 99821

From: [Helen Unruh](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Re: Fireworks Prohibition on Parks
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 2:38:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in favor of prohibiting fireworks in Juneau Parks and everywhere else in the Borough. I enjoy fireworks as much as anyone & I understand the “fun” of setting them off..... however, I also realize it may not be “fun” for my neighbors.

The city puts on an excellent display for all to enjoy on the 4th of July! It is far better than any individual can do!

Those who set off “explosives” in the parks or their neighborhoods are often not responsible in regards to litter & safety. It is not uncommon that setting off fireworks goes with beer let alone it is disrespectful & inconsiderate. If they own a private island and are not disturbing anyone else fine.... but if one lives in an urban setting then yes, individuals cannot do anything they want..... what about the freedom of others not to listen to loud noises or be concerned their house may be set on fire? Freedom is a two -way street.

Please think about all the residents in the Borough and prohibit all fireworks.... in reality it is all or nothing.... If it is ok at certain times.... no restrictions? seems it could get even more out of hand. Where do you draw the line? What if they start a fire? or damage property? or leave litter? no to mention animals, people..... who have serious reactions to these “explosive” noises.....

Please don't be intimidated by those who feel their freedoms are being taken away! If you give them freedom to do as they please, what about the freedoms of everyone else?

Thank you!

Helen Unruh

From: [Patricia O'Brien](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: ["Firework Juneau"](#)
Subject: No Personal Use Fireworks
Date: Friday, May 13, 2016 10:00:18 AM
Attachments: [FireworksSafetyTips.pdf](#)

Hello,

I am writing to let you know I support professionally handled fireworks, and no fireworks in the hands of others. Period.

The 'I can do anything' attitude prevalent in Alaska has its strong points, but not at the expense of others, including animals and our natural surroundings.

If the National Fire Protection Association advises no fireworks, except as handled by professionals (see attached), why aren't our Juneau representatives acting to pass a responsible and reasonable ordinance?

The noise ordinance doesn't cut it. Expecting residents to approach neighbors late at night to request they stop shooting off fireworks doesn't cut it.

I enjoy the fireworks downtown at midnight on the 3rd of July as much as anyone, but not the persons nearby who are shooting off their personal fireworks every which way and filling homes on the Douglas beach side with noxious smoke. In addition my own negative experiences from fireworks include

- Waiting several years for reforestation on a favorite walk on the inside trail at the Mendenhall Glacier Campground, following a fire started by personal use fireworks;
- Handling terrorized pets from fireworks explosions in my neighborhood, not only on or near the 4th of July;
- Wondering whether the nearby repeated late night explosion is a shotgun or fireworks;
- Being concerned about the terrorizing effects on wildlife and fire from fireworks.

Please work to create an ordinance that will free our homes, parks, and surrounding ecosystem from personal use fireworks. That would improve and clarify responsibility for both fire and police authorities. Follow the advice of the experts in the National Fire Protection Association and prohibit personal use fireworks.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Patricia OBrien, An Alaskan for 48 years, 45 in Juneau.
(907) 789-9405

From: [Karla Hart](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Fireworks
Date: Friday, May 13, 2016 11:08:12 AM

I am one of many in the community who are unhappy with fireworks in neighborhoods. Over the past decade plus I have made plans to be away from my home on New Years and 4th of July because of the noise when I can. The randomness and intensity is disturbing. Sleeping is not possible on these holidays as fireworks explosions jar me awake at random intervals until late in the night.

There is lots of science that shows noise causes an increase in stress hormones and is detrimental to health.

I support a complete ban on private fireworks in Juneau all year. If we must allow on particular holidays designate an area - though where is unknown to me as the noise disturbance to people, pets and wildlife is untenable.

Regards,

Karla Hart

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: For PRAC: Additional Support of Fireworks Restriction
Date: Monday, May 16, 2016 4:59:58 PM

PRAC-

This is in follow-up to my previous email in which I offered support for restrictions on fireworks in CBJ parks. Below is an excerpt from the EXISTING ordinance governing the use of CBJ recreation areas. Please note that the majority of the fireworks being used on a regular basis in Savikko Park (I can't speak as to what's happening in other parks) are "aerial" fireworks, meaning they are launched and fly through the air – which is the definition of "missile." I think any reasonable person would agree that the ordinance below already prohibits these types of fireworks in any CBJ recreation area (assuming Parks & Rec hasn't designated specific "aerial firework areas" within its parks). This ordinance clearly restricts the launching of golf balls, stones, and other "missiles." There should be no debate as to whether or not "aerial" fireworks should be considered "missiles." In fact, I encourage you to do a quick search of any online fireworks dealer and you will find even the manufacturers and retailers categorize and market these products as "missiles." If a golf ball or stone is considered a missile, certainly a projectile launched by the explosion of gunpowder compressed into a tube, intended to create a secondary explosion upon flying a certain distance is considered a missile. I'd enjoy hearing the reasoning of anyone who would debate otherwise.

67.01.090 - Prohibited uses.

67.01.090(c): Firearms and other missiles prohibited. No person shall carry or discharge an air rifle, firearm or slingshot or throw stones or other missiles within the limits of any area designated in section 67.01.030, and no person shall hit a golf ball or launch other missiles within such areas other than in areas designated by the director.

As I stated in my previous email, I fully support not only *additional* restrictions on "non-aerial" fireworks in CBJ parks, I ask the PRAC to formally recognize that "aerial" fireworks are already prohibited in CBJ parks and make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly, Parks & Rec Department, and JPD to clarify the existing ordinance, expand the existing ordinance to include restrictions on "non-aerial" fireworks-which do nothing except disturb/scare other park users and nearby residents (i.e. they aren't even "pretty" to look at)- and to *enhance the enforcement* of all existing (and future) provisions of this ordinance.

Mr. Duncan and his staff have recently taken positive measures to control the noise disturbances originating from CBJ parks (Savikko Park in particular), and these efforts are very much appreciated, but physically closing picnic shelters and installing cameras will have little impact on what could be argued is the most disturbing noise coming from these parks. Until CBJ takes definitive action to control the use of consumer fireworks in its parks, areas like Savikko Park will continue to be the source of disturbances to other park users and nearby residents. As a user and a nearby resident, I am counting on the PRAC to help tame the use of these parks and make them enjoyable for the majority of their users, not for the minority of the users who are basically playing with matches and celebrating nothing more than a good night's drinking.

Best regards,

Brett Farrell

504 St. Anns Ave
Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Lindsey Daniel](#)
Subject: Something for the P&R Advisory Committee re Mayor Koelsch
Date: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 9:14:19 AM

<http://www.kinyradio.com/news/news-of-the-north/mayor-ken-koelsch-advises-citizens-to-go-easy-on-the-fireworks/>

Juneau Mayor Ken Koelsch advises citizens to go easy on the fireworks this summer:

"I would ask the citizenry to lay off the fireworks. We have a time, it's called the Fourth of July, and I don't think anybody gets too bent out of shape if fireworks are on Fourth of July or the third of July. When they go off now, it sounds like gunfire and we're a little bit cautious and leery. Pets go scattering all over the place. We will definitely want to follow up. It's illegal. Don't do it. Please! Have a little respect for people that live in your neighborhood."

Juneau Mayor Ken Koelsch was a guest on Action Line Friday.

From: [Chris Day](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#); [Amanda Lovejoy](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Proposal to close Savikko Part at 11pm
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:26:46 AM

Here is the second comment submitted.

Chris Day
Administrative Assistant 1
Parks & Recreation
(907) 586-5226
chris.day@juneau.org

From: Kyle Hebert [<mailto:kylehebert8@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:50 AM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Comments on Proposal to close Savikko Part at 11pm

To Members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee:

I am in support of the proposal to change the closing time of Savikko Park from midnight to 11pm. I am a homeowner on Saint Anns Avenue, and my house is located directly above the ball field adjacent to the parking lot.

From my house, I routinely hear loud noise coming from the park area late at night, which is disruptive and wakes me up at times. Noise I hear includes explosions (I assume from fireworks), loud music, roaring engines, and people yelling. I live on the uphill side of St. Anns Ave and hear plenty, but I know those who live on the downhill side really suffer, as their houses are situated perfectly to catch all the noise that comes from below.

Changing the park closing time one hour earlier is a reasonable step toward helping to address the problem. Although a one hour change should not be a major inconvenience to park users, it could make a very big difference to help those who live in the area. I urge you to accept the proposal and change the closing time to 11pm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kyle Hebert
509 St. Anns Avenue
Douglas

From: [Chris Day](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#); [Amanda Lovejoy](#)
Subject: FW: Savikko Park
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:26:17 AM

Here is an email from our parks.rec email for the PRAC meeting.

Chris Day
Administrative Assistant 1
Parks & Recreation
(907) 586-5226
chris.day@juneau.org

From: Shirley Dean [mailto:srdean007@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Savikko Park

I would like my comments submitted as part of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)

public comments on the Proposed Change in Park Hours.

I support this change. I have lived in Douglas over Sandy Beach on St Anns for 30 years. Last night

is an example. At 11:05 p.m. fireworks were being shot off either in the parking lot, or the beach.

It is very loud and disruptive to the neighborhood as well as terror for many of the animals who live

in the neighborhood. Also, during the summer months not only is there constant fireworks, but

many parties that go on until the wee hours of the morning.

I think closing the Park at 11 p.m. is a good compromise for both the residents and the people using

the park. I fully support this measure.

Thank You all for the hard work you do on behalf of the Juneau citizens.

Shirley Dean/505 St. Anns/ Douglas, AK 99824
907-364-3581

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: RE: Thanks
Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 5:05:12 PM

Wow.

So if only 5 members show up for a meeting it would result in a quorum, but all 5 would have to vote the same way for the action to pass. I'm not a lawyer, but does that sound like it meets the intent of a "public process" when you consider that almost HALF of the committee never would hear the discussion/testimony that led to the vote? It seems unfair to both the public and the PRAC members to even hold a vote unless they are ALL present the way CBJ's rules are currently written/interpreted. A vote should never have to be unanimous to pass. And the concerns of a committee member who fails to appear for the discussion and voting should not be taken into account when tallying the votes of those members who did hear the discussion and cast a vote (which again, is why a quorum is required to begin with – so that a present minority will never represent an absent majority). This is simply wrong. It's also contrary to Roberts Rules of Order, which intends for the majority of those VOTING to pass the action as long as a quorum is met- and which makes perfect sense. As far as I'm concerned, this decision just disenfranchised the votes of 4 PRAC members (and I'd be rather irritated if I was one of them), and awarded the 2 in the minority a "win" because these rules *assume the 3 members who didn't show up would have voted "nay."* Why is it not more logical to assume that the 3 missing members would have voted with the majority of the members who DID vote? Better yet, why write voting rules that *assume* anything? If you vote, your vote is counted. If you miss the vote, the majority of those who showed up get to make the decision in your absence. Don't like that? SHOW UP and vote. Common sense.

I'll let you know what my next steps/plans are, if anything. I need to let my blood pressure settle out. At this point, I'd almost rather take on the assembly than try to sway a few people who don't represent anyone who's actually affected by this issue (unless they have a lot of friends who like misusing your park late at night, of course). I pay property taxes to CBJ, not DIB.

The bottom line in all this, until some kind of positive action is taken to control the behavior in your park this problem isn't going to go away (nor is the squeaky wheel at 504 St. Anns Ave). We hoped that the common-sense option of adjusting the park hours by 1-hour would help the JPD close the park a little more reliably. If this initiative fails, which appears likely, the City still has a problem to deal with. The one thing every group of "interested parties" seems to agree on is the need for better enforcement of the existing rules/ordinances. If JPD can't do that at midnight (or later), then someone else needs to. This remains a CBJ responsibility, not mine.

Brett

Brett Farrell

Desk: (907) 463-4640

Cell: (907) 957-0692

Email: BrettFarrell@mxak.org

From: Kirk Duncan [<mailto:Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>]

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 12:44 PM

To: Brett Farrell

Subject: FW: Thanks

Hi Brett – An answer from the Law Department

From: Amy Mead

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 12:27 PM

To: Laurie Sica; Kirk Duncan

Subject: RE: Thanks

Actually, I think it's Charter section 3.16 that would technically answer the question, but it's same answer Laurie gave:

Section 3.16 of Charter provides for the establishment of advisory (and other types of) boards, and specifies that "the prevailing vote of a majority of members shall be required for official action" (but allows that number to be reduced in the event of a conflict). The last paragraph of 3.16(e) states "A quorum of a board shall consist of a majority of the full membership."

If only six members were present, the PRAC would still need a vote of 5 to take any action. If five members were present, the vote would need to be unanimous. If four members were present, the only action that could be taken would be to adjourn to a later date.

Amy Mead
CBJ Municipal Attorney
(907) 586-5340

From: Laurie Sica

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 12:13 PM

To: Kirk Duncan

Cc: Amy Mead

Subject: RE: Thanks

Hello,

Resolution 2646 repealed the PRAC's bylaws and replaced them with the following statement:

(Resolution 2646) Section 4. Procedure. The Committee's procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order except where superseded by the Advisory Board Rules of Procedure and the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, as such may be amended from time to time.

In Resolution 2550, the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, it outlines in Rule 5, section E, that a majority of the membership is a quorum, so 5 is a quorum of a nine member group. The section on voting says in Section F says that the minimum vote is the same as the quorum, so an affirmative vote of 5 members of the PRAC is needed to take action.

E. Quorum of Committees. For the Committee of the Whole and the Finance Committee, a majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. For committees with seven or eight members, four of the membership shall constitute a quorum, for committees with five or six members, three of the membership shall constitute a quorum. For committees with four or fewer members, two of the membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

F. Voting. The minimum vote required to take official action shall be the same as that constituting a quorum; provided, however, that in the case of a tie vote, the action fails.

I believe that the Assembly's Rules of procedure supersedes Roberts in this case. We have always interpreted the rules to mean that a vote by the majority of a committee is not needed, not a majority of those present. I will copy Amy to make sure she concurs.

Let me know if you have other questions.

Laurie Sica , MMC

Municipal Clerk

City and Borough of Juneau

155 S Seward St.

Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-0216 phone
(907) 586-4552 fax
www.juneau.org
Find CBJ on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/CBJAK>

From: Kirk Duncan
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Laurie Sica
Subject: FW: Thanks
Importance: High
Here you go

From: Brett Farrell [<mailto:brettfarrell@mxak.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 10:39 AM
To: Kirk Duncan
Subject: RE: Thanks
Importance: High

Me gain Kirk. I think someone is pulling your leg.

*"Before a meeting can conduct business it requires a **quorum**--the minimum number of members who must be present at the meeting before business can be legally transacted. The requirement of a quorum is a protection against unrepresentative action in the name of the association by an unduly small number of people."*

The by-laws of an association should specify the number of members that constitute the quorum. Ideally, that number should be the largest number that can be depended on to attend any meeting except in very bad weather or other extremely unfavorable conditions.

Robert's rules state that if the by-laws do not specify what the quorum shall be, it is a majority of the members of the association. In some organizations, however, it is often not possible to obtain the attendance of a majority of the membership at a meeting. Most associations should therefore have a provision in their by-laws for a relatively small quorum. An actual number can be listed, or a percentage of the membership can be specified. No single number or percentage will be suitable for all associations. A quorum should be a small enough number to permit the business of the association to proceed, but large enough to prevent a small minority from abusing the right of the majority of the members by passing motions that do not represent the thinking of the majority."

On 6/3/13, the Assembly repealed the PRAC's bylaws and replaced them with the attached resolution in order "to simplify" the PRAC's processes. Note that this resolution, which appears to be the current equivalent to the PRAC's bylaws, does not state the minimum number of committee members that must be present for a quorum. Since it doesn't explicitly state this number, Roberts Rules states that the minimum number for a quorum is the majority of the members present. There were 6 members present the other night, and the committee has 9 members total. They HAD a quorum, and the entire idea behind a quorum is that they had enough to "conduct" business on behalf of the entire committee. At this point, unless I'm missing something, I think it's safe to say the PRAC has "spoken" and they are advising you to close Savikko Park at 11:00p for 1 year until it can be determined if this had any positive effect on the disturbances arising from the after-hours misuse of Savikko Park. At this point, my neighbors and I should be the ones threatening to go to the Assembly and/or the City Manager if the hours aren't changed, not the people who lost the "vote" the other night (if that's what's happening, or if that's what the fear is).

Back at ya, what do you think?

Brett

Brett Farrell

Desk: (907) 463-4640

Cell: (907) 957-0692

Email: BrettFarrell@mxak.org

From: Brett Farrell

Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 10:02 AM

To: 'Kirk Duncan' <Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>

Subject: RE: Thanks

Geez. Can you send me a copy of the letter from DAB that was submitted as part of the record the other night?

Seems to me their biggest beef was the gate idea, even though the public notice they were responding to had no mention of the gate. I suppose there's a chance I could convince this all-powerful "board" of people I didn't know existed until last week (and none of whom live near Savikko Park) to at least ease up on their opposition to a 1-yr trial period of an earlier closing time. The ONE thing everyone has been in agreement of since the beginning is that the enforcement of park hours needs to be enhanced. The Chief of Police sat in that room the other night and testified that he feels it would be easier and more effective to enforce an 11:00p closing vs a 12:00a closing because there aren't as many competing issues at 11:00p as there generally are at 12:00a.

I assume if I can get these DAB folks to support this, then it needs to be voted on again by the PRAC (this time maybe with more of them present)?

I still say you have a fairly strong precedent in place with Cope Park's current closing time of 10:00p (that the Assembly apparently has no problem with). This was obviously done at some point in the past due to the same concerns my neighbors and I have with Savikko Park, and likely never even went through a "public process." I wonder if a prior Parks & Rec Director or member of the Assembly happened to live next to Cope Park when that time change was made? Maybe I need to attend the next PRAC and voice my concern over not being able to walk my dog, play tennis, or shoot off my fireworks after 10:00p in Cope Park and see how they'd vote on changing those hours back to midnight to align with Savikko?

Brett

Brett Farrell

Desk: (907) 463-4640

Cell: (907) 957-0692

Email: BrettFarrell@mxak.org

From: Kirk Duncan [<mailto:Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>]

Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2016 10:54 AM

To: Brett Farrell <brettfarrell@mxak.org>

Subject: RE: Thanks

Hi Brett

We are not out of the woods yet

The motion that was passed needed 5 votes to make the recommendation official; a majority of the committee not just a majority of those voting. A rule that I did not understand from Roberts Rule of Order

I am also concerned that the Douglas Advisory Board is against the motion, that does not look good

from an Assembly perspective. I believe that you need to attend a DAB meeting to see if you can reason with them and get them to adopt the one year change
Unfortunately, public process is not easy and I don't want to be in a position where a recommendation is overruled at the assembly level as the assembly does not like being put in that position
Thoughts or questions?
Kirk

From: Brett Farrell [<mailto:brettfarrell@mxak.org>]

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 10:54 AM

To: Kirk Duncan

Subject: Thanks

Hello Kirk-

Thanks again for the opportunity and assistance you've provided me since the beginning of my efforts to tame Savikko Park. I was a little disappointed with some of the conversation the other night (especially the blindside opposition from Douglas Island Advisory Cmte, which many of my *Douglas Island* neighbors didn't even know existed- including me). Had I known about this group, I would have engaged with them from the beginning and likely would have been able to get them on the "right" side of this issue.

After hearing Chief Johnson's comments I'm still convinced this simple time change will pay rather large dividends, especially when combined with the work I see your folks doing to close/lock the big shelter at closing time. None of this will obviously have an effect on the tailgate parties that erupt shortly after the local bar closing times, but that's the ONE clear violation of the noise ordinance that isn't based on a "reasonable person" standard – regardless of what time it takes place. If I hear the music from a vehicle in that parking lot, it far exceeds the 30ft distance clearly specified in the ordinance. I guess that issue will continue to be between those of us affected and the JPD.

The only slight shame in all this is that I suppose I'll need to re-engage next year when this new closing time "sunsets" to convince the PRAC that it worked. But I'm certainly willing to do that, and I'm also certainly willing to report that it DIDN'T work if that ends up being the case. I remain optimistic though...

Lastly- I'm not in a position to apologize for what anyone else said in the meeting the other night, but I can tell you that I think Parks & Rec (and the PRAC) do pretty good job around Juneau. I understand your department has many other responsibilities other than Savikko Park, limited employees, and a limited budget. Keep up the good work (and good luck with those ballfields!)
Cheers,

Brett

Brett Farrell

Desk: (907) 463-4640

Cell: (907) 957-0692

Email: BrettFarrell@mxak.org

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: Parks and Fireworks
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:04:28 PM
Attachments: [FireworksPresentation3EnforcementBrief.pdf](#)
[FireworksJanuary29.pdf](#)
[FireworksLetterNeighborhoods.pdf](#)

Hello Kirk -

For the past few months I've been working as communications coordinator or a group that has formed for those concerned about consumer fireworks abuse in Juneau.

I'm a member of the Thane Neighborhood Association, and became interested in the fireworks issue when a neighbor complained at length about a seal bomb barrage she endured last summer that caused her dog to run off into the woods. Dogs that run away into the forest in Thane stand a 50-50 chance of getting eaten by coyotes or wolves, by my informal tally of past incidents. So this woman was quite upset [fortunately the dog turned up several hours later on a neighbor's porch]. It seemed that fireworks was something that perhaps our Board might need to pay attention to.

The fireworks group is planning to do a brief slide presentation to the upcoming May 3 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, as a number our members are Douglas residents and are concerned about fireworks noise and hazardous behavior problems in Savikko Park.

Attached please find PDFs summarizing what we've learned so far about:

- JPD response to fireworks complaints since implementation of our noise ordinance two years ago, based upon statistics provided from requests to JPD's data department
- A gripping Facebook saga of a six-hour January 29th fireworks incident in the Valley that resulted in an arrest
- Response from our Attorney General as to why the arrest was not prosecuted, and his opinion on the importance of the noise ordinance
- A survey letter we sent to Juneau's neighborhood associations earlier this year, to Mayor Koelsch when he was an election candidate, and also posted to the Juneau Community Concern page on Facebook
[<https://www.facebook.com/groups/JuneauCommunity/permalink/1192825814091212/>], and currently online [<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/613/446/284/where-do-you-stand-on-the-juneau-fireworks-problem/>]

Well, that's probably enough reading....

Best regards,
Chris Prussing

From: [Bryce Johnson](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: FW: May 3 Presentation About Fireworks In Parks
Date: Monday, April 25, 2016 9:31:29 AM
Attachments: [FireworksPresentation3EnforcementBrief.pdf](#)
[FireworksJanuary29.pdf](#)
[FireworksPresentation2.pdf](#)

Kirk,

Are fireworks coming up as an issue at your PRAC in the near future? Anything you may need from me?

Thanks, Bryce

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 4:37 PM
To: Bryce Johnson
Cc: David Campbell; Kris Sell
Subject: May 3 Presentation About Fireworks In Parks
Hello Chief Johnson -

You may perhaps remember me as a member of the Thane Neighborhood Association Board. Last summer a neighbor complained to me at length about someone who set off 9 seal bombs fifty feet offshore from her house. Her dog was terrified, and ran off into the woods - not a good place for a Thane dog, as our forest is patrolled by coyotes and wolves. Fortunately, after several hours the dog was found hiding on a neighbor's porch.

The incident, and a note to the Juneau Empire from Brad Fluetsch about a neighbor setting off seal bombs, made me wonder if perhaps seal bombs and fireworks were something for which Thane Neighborhood Association needed to stay abreast, so if we got any further complaints we would have some advice ready. Lt. Campbell was helpful in answering my questions, but the situation still seemed uncertain.

So I established contact with a group concerned about fireworks abuse in Juneau, and over the past months we have been gathering information. At the May 3 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting we will be doing a short slide presentation on some of the difficulties fireworks are currently causing in Juneau. Residents above Savikko Park have complained of unacceptable noise, and fireworks was listed as one of the sources by those who petitioned the Committee. The Douglas Advisory Board has made some suggestions, but personally, considering my and my neighbors' experiences with the difficulties of Neighborhood Watch and signage, these suggestions are naive and impractical.

Reading the Assembly minutes with respect to fireworks for the past few years, as well as the relevant minutes for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, it seems apparent that the solution everyone seems to rally around is to point to JPD to fix things. It always seems to get tossed onto JPD's plate. When we contacted Ken Koelsch during his campaign for his opinion on fireworks abuse, his response seems to reflect this assumption that it's JPD's responsibility: *"I [discussed] this with police officers that are working in the field. Their advice is that existing noise ordinances need to be enforced. Their feeling is that it is a matter of priority of the department. While our neighborhood in town has not experienced artillery barrages, no neighborhood should - pet, kids, adults. My brother was a Vietnam veteran and had visible reactions to loud noises all his life."*

The statistics your data department supplied, and Lt. Sell's explanation of the response codes, are attached in the slides on the "Enforcement" presentation. While 241 fireworks noise complaints in the past two years might seem like quite a few, your data officer explained to me that the number is almost insignificant compared to 50,000 total yearly calls for service - less than a quarter of 1%. So assigning police resources to this problem is an issue, especially when deadly crime in Juneau appears to be on the increase. This makes it even more

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Rich Etheridge](#)
Cc: [Sven Pearson](#); [Dan Jager](#); [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: Re: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee presentation on fireworks
Date: Thursday, May 05, 2016 8:14:49 AM
Attachments: [FireworksBackyardBombings.jpg](#)

Thank you Chief Etheridge for your thoughtful response.

I would question one preconception, however:

This is a very heated topic between the people pro-fireworks and anti-fireworks. There are large numbers of people on both sides of the argument.

It is not a contention between pro- and anti-fireworks. Most of us love fireworks, and find them exciting, beautiful, and fun.

Where the contention lies is between fireworks lovers in general, and the few users of consumer fireworks who insist on setting them off in residential areas.

- Disturbing? What else does one call loud booming noises at 11PM?
- Reckless? How else to describe shooting roman candles at one another? Flaming debris landing on a neighbor's property?
- Malicious? Is there a better word for retaliation by a neighbor who has been requested to desist?

We of course have ordinances addressing those three obnoxious behaviors, and JPD is ready and willing to deal with them. However, most of us in the public don't want to have to organize neighborhood watch informant systems, run out in our pajamas at midnight to see which knucklehead down the block is causing the ruckus, or rat out our neighbors to JPD. What we want is for the underlying setup to be adjusted so that the problem behaviors are discouraged from even getting started.

WE SUPPORT FIREWORKS DISPLAYS! NOT BACKYARD BOMBINGS!

Thus, it seems worthwhile for our fire marshal to support our existing ordinance prohibiting the sale of fireworks in Juneau, lest an incident such as this occur:
[\$3,000 worth of fireworks blew up in the 2 car garage of a man who wears American flag bandanas. His brother in law was apparently the guy who set the whole thing off.]

<http://www.ranker.com/list/the-13-most-horrible-firework-accidents/robert-wabash?format=SLIDESHOW&page=4>

Best regards,
Chris



On Wed, May 4, 2016 at 12:53 PM, Rich Etheridge <Rich.Etheridge@juneau.org> wrote:

Thank you for sending us a copy of your presentation. This is a very heated topic between the people pro-fireworks and anti-fireworks. There are large numbers of people on both sides of the argument. From the fire department aspect, we are impartial. Whatever ordinances are passed by the assembly is what we will enforce.

You are correct that NFPA has an anti-fireworks campaign. They are a standard written that the International Fire Codes references for certain parts of their codes. NFPA in its self is not a law unless it is specifically adopted as such. I empathize with the annoyance of inconsiderate people that lite them off at all hours. My own neighborhood is not exempt from this issue either.

There are legal ways to purchase fireworks from out of town and have them barged in or brought in on a private boat. The specific fire code laws that are currently on the books are the only thing we can enforce. The fire marshals do follow up when they get tips of activity that violates the fire code. We have conducted presentations to the assembly several times based on the local data we have access to on the public safety aspects of fireworks. We simply don't have data to show they have caused some of the public safety problems that people complain about.

We have had one fire approximately 6 years ago that may or may not have been caused by fireworks. We did not find any definitive proof of the cause and fireworks could not be ruled out along with a couple of other causes. We have found one EMS incident from a firework injury that occurred on the Taku River. Our Ambulances and the ER staff have not been seeing fireworks injuries in the last few years. That is not saying they don't occur, they just have not risen to the levels that we would be called. We also have not been called to any emotionally disturbed patients suffering from PTSD due to fireworks.

We have not had the data to support a public safety argument for CCFR jumping in to this debate on whose rights win in this argument. In my opinion it is a noise complaint issue.

I will bring this up with Kirk and the rest of the CBJ management team so they are aware of the issue that is pending in the community as this is a much larger issue than just one department. I am not sure yet which department will take the lead on this issue for the CBJ.

Rich Etheridge

Fire Chief

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 12:06 PM

To: Rich Etheridge; Sven Pearson; Dan Jager

Subject: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee presentation on fireworks

Chief Etheridge -

At last night's committee meeting, our Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks group did a slide presentation + resident's statement addressing fireworks in parks, as the committee has been working to resolve a petition complaint from St. Ann's residents about noise from Savikko park.

One of the questions from the committee was about the "legality" of fireworks. I explained that it seemed to originate in a building fire code change several years ago, which classified certain varieties of fireworks as consumer products. However, the National Fire Protection Association is adamantly opposed to consumer fireworks, as they see the statistics. That our CBJ ordinance prohibiting sale of fireworks thus originated with the fire marshal's concern about public safety. That this prohibition wasn't stopping illicit sales of fireworks on Juneau, just last week someone in Douglas was soliciting on our local Craig's List, seeking to purchase "\$20,000" worth of fireworks [until the ad was pulled by the list as a prohibited type of post].

Kirk Duncan will be contacting the Fire Marshal's office for more info, so if I was mistaken in anything I related, I would greatly appreciate any correction your office can provide.

Attached is a PDF of the slide show.

Best regards,

Chris Prussing

"Communications Coordinator"

From: [Michael Dau](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: ["Firework Juneau"](#)
Subject: Parks & Rec Advisory Committee Meeting May 3, 2016/Fireworks
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 2:29:29 PM

Thank you to the committee for hearing our concerns regarding the general use of fireworks in our neighborhoods and parks. I do hope we were able to convey concerns as posted on neighborhood sites, the Juneau Community Concern Facebook page and a group of us tied together via email regarding this topic. There doesn't appear to be many middle-of-the-roaders when it comes to this issue. And if you're not affected by fireworks over your home yet, I consider you lucky.

It was clear how uncomfortable I am with speaking in public, no matter how much practice time I force on myself. This is a topic of personal importance and, if needed, I'll speak again. We have been severely impacted by the choices of others and their personal use of explosives. Something has to change. We're not the only ones with these stories of shattered glass, a severe injury witnessed, and I remind you, on different occasions. And we're not the only ones with lives disrupted on any given night simply because someone a house over is seized by the fantastic idea of lighting up the sky. This just can't be ok. I'm also troubled by the appearance of 'waiving off' of concern and of the NFPA by our Fire Chief. It's interesting that the CCFR Mission and Vision appear to take exactly these matters into account. That protections are an inherent part of what they do;

***Our Mission:** We serve and protect our community from life-and property-threatening emergencies in a competent, professional and proactive manner.*

***Our Vision:** Our vision is to provide fire, rescue and emergency medical services at the highest level of excellence, professionalism and commitment to the community. Proud of our past and embracing our future, the members of Capital City Fire/Rescue will work as an effective and integrated, team, dedicated to continuous improvement and maintaining a positive environment.*

We would like to see proactivity.

At the risk of being repetitive, how did a loophole in code become a free-for-all for pyrotechnics. And what is 'saleable' fireworks, especially in light of fireworks sales not being allowed in Juneau. And where are these coming from. Ferry? Illegal. Plane? Let's not consider this.

Fireworks are severely disruptive.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous.

And litter? We can't have glass on the beach, but fireworks? And what about that one little shell that gets left behind. Whose child is going to find that? Or that unlucky person/child/pet/property that just happens to be in the way of an errant or dud shell.

And no oversight. Gorrilla Fireworks has more information on safety and surroundings than cbj.

But we have over-site and guidelines for people with firepits?

Even duck hunters are required to undergo training and must be away from the public to discharge their shotguns.

We are two of Juneau's residents that want personal use fireworks banned. If that can't be the case, let's work toward a license of sorts, a permit where someone of authority knows the who, what and where of usage. Someone that can be held accountable. A permit may also require proof of how the materials came to Juneau. A permit should show where, away from homes and property, is an appropriate place for igniting pyrotechnic displays. Maybe certain parks during certain windows of time. Sobriety would be required. Clean up would be required. And maybe most importantly, safety training should be provided to the accountable party.

Please. Let's start here. Your own mission statement says:

To enhance the quality of life in Juneau, the Parks and Recreation Department will deliver a high level of guest service with cost effective operations provided by highly engaged employees.

Personal use fireworks don't fit.
Thank you again for your time and the work that you do.
Cindy Dau
And Mike Dau
2335 Meadow Lane

From: [Fireworks Juneau](#)
To: [Rorie Watt](#)
Cc: [Kirk Duncan](#); [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: Meeting recap
Date: Friday, May 20, 2016 8:59:11 AM
Attachments: [PRACSlide32.jpg](#)
[DouglasBeatFireworksComplaints.jpg](#)

Hello Rorie -

To recap our meeting on Wednesday, allow me to emphasize that we are not merely interested in starting the public process to resolve the increase in fireworks disturbances.

The public process is already started - dealing with fireworks noise is already the list of Assembly list of strategic goals.

What we want is less process and more action. Specifically, let's start with a ban on fireworks in our CBJ parks.

This should be no major inconvenience to most people - Auke Rec, Mendenhall, and Eagle Beach parks already prohibit fireworks, and residents seem able to enjoy themselves just fine without fireworks noise and burn hazards.

Fireworks-free parks might at least give residents who want to picnic and camp outdoors with their families a refuge from the jerks in residential neighborhoods who ruin yard parties for a mile around with their fireworks barrages. And we do mean "jerks" - how else to describe someone who thinks it's OK to disturb and annoy neighbors, frighten small kids and send pets running?

Having reviewed the Savikko Park noise complaints to Parks & Rec from Douglas residents, you will no doubt recollect that fireworks noise was mentioned in a number of letters. Missing from the draft slide presentation that accompanied the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee minutes is the one attached, which was part of the actual presentation. The slide with JPD statistics for fireworks noise complaints for the Douglas beat was also shown to the committee. Even the small data set represented nonetheless seems to indicate that curtailing fireworks in Savikko would likely significantly reduce noise complaints.

Today the parks, tomorrow residential zones. Let's **solve** this problem, not just keep sidelining it.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing, Karen Capp, and all the other Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Lindsey Daniel](#); [Kirk Duncan](#); [Rorie Watt](#)
Subject: Re: May 3 PRAC slide presentation
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 10:00:51 AM

Thank you Lindsey.

If I recollect correctly, my answer to Chris Mertl's question wherein I expressed uneasiness about banning fireworks on the 4th of July and New Year's Eve was followed by the observation that the growing incidence of fireworks causing disturbances on non-holiday occasions was becoming a problem. I used the example of a family picnicking on a beach, only to have their day ruined if someone further down the beach shot off fireworks that frightened the family dog into running away and being lost. That rather changes the tenor of the response, does it not?

I also recollect speaking at length in a response to another committee member about the difficulties of neighborhood watches, based upon my own neighborhood organization's experiences. That a watch requires a close communication network so that members can pass word along quickly; close coordination with JPD is also required. Most of us do not actually want to have to form an informant network and rat out our neighbors to the police; what we want is not to be further punished as victims, but to have the underlying situation changed so the problem behaviors do not get started to begin with.

I believe it was Odin who asked about current CBJ ordinances with respect to fireworks, and I replied that it was a fire code change several years ago that allowed the possession of a certain amount of consumer fireworks. That the fire marshal at the time got enacted an ordinance to prevent the sale of fireworks in Juneau, following the recommendations of the National Fire Protection Association. That the noise from fireworks could certainly be considered a disturbance of the peace and ticketed as a violation of the noise ordinance we enacted two years ago. Likely I did not phrase my answer so succinctly, but that is the gist of what I would have tried to say.

Will this email be forwarded to the PRAC members so that someone can move to modify the draft minutes to better reflect what was actually said?

This is the sort of thing that gets pointed to by those cynical about the public process as an example of bureaucratic obfuscation and obstruction. As a former CBJ employee I know that is not the case, that those who work for our CBJ offices and committees are well-intentioned and do their best to resolve problems brought to their attention. Mistakes sometimes are simply made. Nonetheless, as I am functioning as a spokesperson for the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks group, more eyes than mine will be reading those minutes, especially with regard to our request for a letter from the PRAC to our Assembly requesting the prohibition of fireworks in CBJ parks. Thus it seems prudent to have the minutes more accurately reflect public testimony.

Cynthia Dau spells her name D-a-u, by the way.

On Mon, May 23, 2016 at 11:36 AM, Lindsey Daniel <Lindsey.Daniel@juneau.org> wrote:

| Hi Chris,

One more update. I just double checked the proper way to go about changing the minutes with the Clerk's Office, and because the minutes were already released, a PRAC member will have to motion to add the omitted detail at the June PRAC Meeting when the motion to approve the meeting minutes comes up. I have emailed the PRAC member who expressed concern about the missing minute details about the protocol necessary to update the minutes.

Thanks,

Lindsey D.

From: Lindsey Daniel
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 11:12 AM
To: 'Chris Prussing'
Subject: RE: May 3 PRAC slide presentation

Thanks Chris,

A PRAC member brought up the same issue with the minutes and I am working to change them.

Lindsey D.

From: Chris Prussing [<mailto:beadiste@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Lindsey Daniel
Subject: May 3 PRAC slide presentation

Hello Lindsey -

Attached please find a PDF of the fireworks in parks slide presentation to the May 3 PRAC meeting. Two slides were presented that were not in the PDF sent to you prior to the meeting. These are slides 32, and the data from JPD regarding fireworks noise complaints in Douglas (last slide).

Also, I find it a bit odd that of my answers to committee member questions, only my uneasiness about banning fireworks on certain holidays is quoted. Among other things, I recollect speaking of the difficulties with neighborhood watches, which seems pertinent with respect the the Douglas Advisory Committee's letter suggesting the establishment of a neighborhood watch for the Savikko area.

Best regards,

Chris Prussing

From: [Rich Etheridge](#)
To: [Rorie Watt](#); [Mila Cosgrove](#); [Bryce Johnson](#); [Rob Steedle](#); [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: RE: My Turn submission for Friday, June 3 - "No Backyard Barrages"
Date: Friday, May 27, 2016 8:37:19 AM

Copy, I don't anticipate any future fire code changes to allow firework sales. Anytime we receive calls about the ordinances we remain neutral. We enforce the codes and ordinances on the books regardless of our personal feelings on the issue.

If the Fire Marshals need to start preparing any information on fireworks for the assembly, let me know and they will get on it. I think they have retired the public safety argument for now since we don't have the local data to support that specific argument. We will stand by and see what direction this issue takes.

Rich Etheridge
Fire Chief

From: Rorie Watt
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 8:23 AM
To: Mila Cosgrove; Bryce Johnson; Rich Etheridge; Rob Steedle; Kirk Duncan
Subject: FW: My Turn submission for Friday, June 3 - "No Backyard Barrages"
FYI, upcoming my turn from the Fireworks Committee.

From: Chris Prussing [<mailto:beadiste@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Rorie Watt
Subject: Fwd: My Turn submission for Friday, June 3 - "No Backyard Barrages"
Just a FYI. Some changes were made to the previous draft.
--Chris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Emily Russo Miller** <emily.miller@juneauempire.com>
Date: Thu, May 26, 2016 at 2:05 PM
Subject: Re: My Turn submission for Friday, June 3 - "No Backyard Barrages"
To: Chris Prussing <beadiste@gmail.com>, editor@juneauempire.com

Received, thank you

On 5/26/16, 2:04 PM, "Chris Prussing" <Chris.Prussing@juneauempire.com> wrote:

Please consider the attached My Turn opinion piece for your Friday, June 3 issue.

The writing was a collaboration by the signed members. Other members of the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks provided criticism and input as well, but did not add their names due to a variety of privacy concerns.

Thank you.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

Cynthia Dau, Juneau

Mary Jennings, Juneau
Karla Hart, Juneau
Lorraine Murray, Juneau, 790-3951
Chris Prussing, 4655 Thane Road, Juneau, 463-2587

NO BACKYARD BARRAGES

Discussions about fireworks noise in neighborhoods and parks often feature comments such as this:

"This is a very heated topic between the people pro-fireworks and anti-fireworks. There are large numbers of people on both sides of the argument".

That sounds nice and even-handed doesn't it? But it is completely wrong! The contention is not between pro- and anti-fireworks. Most of us love fireworks, and find them exciting, beautiful, and fun.

The contention is between us fireworks lovers in general, and the few users of consumer fireworks who insist on setting them off in residential areas and public parks.

- Disturbing? What else does one call loud booming noises resembling gunfire and artillery cannon blasts at any time, any day? How is it not disturbing to have a terrified pet pee all over one's carpet and cower and shiver for hours? To have kids awakened and frightened an hour after you finally got them to sleep? Have your own sleep disrupted by explosions?
- Reckless? How else to describe shooting roman candles at one another? Letting little kids hold fireworks? Drinking while handling explosives? Shooting bottle rockets into a crowd? Firing mortar rounds over neighbors' rooftops and dropping flaming debris onto their properties? Starting a big undergrowth burn alongside a popular trail?
- Malicious? Is there a better word for retaliation with verbal abuse and petty vandalism by a neighbor who has been requested to desist?

We of course have ordinances addressing those three obnoxious behaviors, and JPD is ready and willing to deal with them: disturbing the peace, reckless endangerment, and malicious mischief. Ownership of certain types of consumer fireworks may be allowed under the fire code, but using them to disturb the peace is not. Common sense suggests that better management of where consumer fireworks may be used would likely simplify JPD enforcement efforts for violations involving fireworks.

Many residents are not only disturbed by neighborhood bombardments, but are now wary of visiting our public parks because they do not want their small children and pets subjected to frightening noise and burning missiles.

Most of us in the public don't want to have to organize neighborhood watch informant systems, run out in our pajamas at midnight to see which juvenile jerk down the block is causing the ruckus, rat out our neighbors to JPD, or avoid using our parks for fear of injury or a lost runaway pet. What we want is for the underlying setup to be adjusted so that the problem behaviors are discouraged from even getting started.

WE SUPPORT FIREWORKS DISPLAYS! NOT BACKYARD BARRAGES!

We want our fire marshal to continue to follow the safety advice of the National Fire Safety Association and support our existing ordinance prohibiting the sale of fireworks in Juneau.

We further want the CBJ to prohibit consumer fireworks in parks and residential neighborhoods, and restrict their use in other locations to the 3rd and 4th of July only.

If our CBJ decides there is a need for an area where fireworks with loud reports and aerial lift can

be used, we suggest Eaglecrest as a venue that can be booked for parties and fireworks displays.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

imperative that misdemeanor citations be prompt and effective, so police time is not wasted. Nonetheless, the attached saga of the January 29th 6-hour fireworks barrage seems to illustrate pretty well that enforcement officers need to be equipped to do more than issue a verbal warning. It's hard not to read through the account and wonder if a verbal warning not only does not stop the misbehavior, it in fact might embolden the perpetrators - "OK, the cops are gone, let's go crazy!"

As our group is interested in solutions, not complaints, if you and your lieutenants could take some time to review the attached PDFs, and suggest some action recommendations to us, perhaps we can succeed in enabling the Assembly to address this issue in a manner that actually assists JPD enforcement, instead of simply passing the problem along for JPD alone to solve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

Chris Prussing

From: k.capp@yahoo.com
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Fireworks Ban
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 7:55:14 AM

Please support a ban of fireworks in the C&B of Juneau in all our parks and residential areas - no exceptions.

With the fireworks show that the C&B provides on the 4th, there is no reason private residents need to terrorize any neighborhood on that holiday or any other holiday, including birthdays, wedding, and other celebrations.

Karen Capp

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Firework Juneau](#)
Subject: Fireworks in Parks, Savikko 11pm closure
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 3:22:13 PM

Thank you, Kirk, and the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee members for your attention to our presentation at the May 3 meeting. I am obliged to remind those who attended that the presentation was the result of a group effort by the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks. I was merely the presenter.

I understand there was some procedural snarl-up in the PRAC vote to close Savikko Park at 11pm instead of midnight. Please re-consider this earlier closure, as the JPD data on fireworks complaints in Douglas show most of the obnoxious activity beginning after 11pm. Hence we suggested an even earlier 10pm closure of Savikko for group activities, as these are the most likely to produce raucous noise and involve fireworks. Parks users not engaged in group activities could continue to walk dogs and enjoy the shoreline scenery until midnight. JPD patrols would likely be more efficient if an officer could oversee park closure at 10 or 11pm, rather than waiting for midnight, a time when other disturbance calls are more likely to come in and officers not as readily available for park complaints.

Allow me to reiterate the difficulties of establishing an effective neighborhood watch, as well as its punishing-the-victims aspect. The Douglas Advisory Board seems to be overly optimistic expecting that simply posting a neighborhood watch sign will encourage residents of the boat harbor to call JPD when noise disturbances occur in Savikko. "Unrealistic" might be an even better word.

While I can understand allowing fireworks in Savikko and along the Douglas beach during the 3rd and 4th of July, a prohibition at all other times seems to be the most prudent approach to protecting public safety and preventing disturbances to the peace. Hence I would encourage the PRAC to forward to the Assembly a letter requesting the prohibition of consumer fireworks in Juneau's parks.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: For PRAC: Fireworks in CBJ Parks
Date: Monday, May 09, 2016 4:53:42 PM

Greetings,

I suspect most of you remember me from previous testimony in front of the PRAC involving excessive noise/disturbances originating from Savikko Park. Although the issue of fireworks use in Savikko Park was never a key component of either of my appearances before the PRAC, you may recall that I did address it, and it was discussed between PRAC members during one of those meetings. In fact, I recall one of the PRAC members specifically expressing frustration that “fireworks are legal to use” in CBJ, so not much could be done about it. Like then, I disagree that nothing can be done about this – or any other use of CBJ parks that disturbs others.

I am writing this in full support of the recent initiative to ban the use of fireworks in CBJ parks (*except on very specific holidays*), or at a minimum in CBJ parks located in close proximity to residential areas. You may recall from previous agenda items regarding changing park hours, a frequent opinion was that it’s a shame to punish responsible park users for the actions of a few irresponsible users. Although I still support changing park hours, there is one clear difference between the use of the park for barbeques, parties, walking dogs, etc. and the use of the park as a launch facility for fireworks: It is *possible* to hold a responsible barbeque, party, or responsibly walk a dog. But it is *impossible* to responsibly engage in the act of exploding fireworks in proximity to other park users and/or surrounding neighborhoods. Regardless of the time of day or the safety component, there is simply no way to launch and explode what is recently better defined as “ordinance” than “fireworks”, without disturbing a large number of people either using the park or those of us unfortunate enough to live near the park. I find it ironic that one of the most cited excuses for not changing park hours was because “a lot of people enjoy walking their dogs on the park late at night.” The irony of this is that many of those dog-owners would tell you that their dogs are terrorized by fireworks! It seems that supporting those who want to walk their dogs on the beach at night by keeping the park open later is in direct conflict with any concern for a park user’s “right” to use the park for launching fireworks.

In reading recent comments submitted during a survey of Juneau residents regarding the use of fireworks I was particularly troubled by one response, which I feel the PRAC should be aware of: A Douglas resident opposed any initiative to control the use of fireworks using the “opinion” I mention above (that a few irresponsible people shouldn’t impact the majority of responsible people). In fact, this person claimed to be a “responsible” fireworks user because they don’t use fireworks in their neighborhood, instead they “shoot them off at the beach.” I suspect the “beach” being referred to in this comment was Sandy Beach/Savikko Park. If I’m correct, then this “responsible” fireworks user chose to not disturb his/her neighbors (which is commendable), but sees nothing wrong with disturbing other park users or those that live in the neighborhood and boat harbor immediately adjacent to the “beach.” Unfortunately this mentality doesn’t surprise me. It’s a very common perception is that almost any behavior, even behavior that would be unacceptable or irresponsible in someone’s neighborhood, is perfectly acceptable when it takes place in a public park.

Those of us who feel that irresponsible behavior and/or misuse of public parks should not only be considered unacceptable, but should be rigorously deterred and prevented remind the PRAC that you are “our voice.” We are counting on you to support changes/initiatives to improve the park

experience for the *majority* of their users (not the *few* irresponsible users), and certainly to prevent parks from becoming a nuisance to their neighbors.

Brett Farrell

504 St. Ann's Ave

Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: For PRAC: Additional Support of Fireworks Restriction
Date: Monday, May 16, 2016 4:59:58 PM

PRAC-

This is in follow-up to my previous email in which I offered support for restrictions on fireworks in CBJ parks. Below is an excerpt from the EXISTING ordinance governing the use of CBJ recreation areas. Please note that the majority of the fireworks being used on a regular basis in Savikko Park (I can't speak as to what's happening in other parks) are "aerial" fireworks, meaning they are launched and fly through the air – which is the definition of "missile." I think any reasonable person would agree that the ordinance below already prohibits these types of fireworks in any CBJ recreation area (assuming Parks & Rec hasn't designated specific "aerial firework areas" within its parks). This ordinance clearly restricts the launching of golf balls, stones, and other "missiles." There should be no debate as to whether or not "aerial" fireworks should be considered "missiles." In fact, I encourage you to do a quick search of any online fireworks dealer and you will find even the manufacturers and retailers categorize and market these products as "missiles." If a golf ball or stone is considered a missile, certainly a projectile launched by the explosion of gunpowder compressed into a tube, intended to create a secondary explosion upon flying a certain distance is considered a missile. I'd enjoy hearing the reasoning of anyone who would debate otherwise.

67.01.090 - Prohibited uses.

67.01.090(c): Firearms and other missiles prohibited. No person shall carry or discharge an air rifle, firearm or slingshot or throw stones or other missiles within the limits of any area designated in section 67.01.030, and no person shall hit a golf ball or launch other missiles within such areas other than in areas designated by the director.

As I stated in my previous email, I fully support not only *additional* restrictions on "non-aerial" fireworks in CBJ parks, I ask the PRAC to formally recognize that "aerial" fireworks are already prohibited in CBJ parks and make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly, Parks & Rec Department, and JPD to clarify the existing ordinance, expand the existing ordinance to include restrictions on "non-aerial" fireworks-which do nothing except disturb/scare other park users and nearby residents (i.e. they aren't even "pretty" to look at)- and to *enhance the enforcement* of all existing (and future) provisions of this ordinance.

Mr. Duncan and his staff have recently taken positive measures to control the noise disturbances originating from CBJ parks (Savikko Park in particular), and these efforts are very much appreciated, but physically closing picnic shelters and installing cameras will have little impact on what could be argued is the most disturbing noise coming from these parks. Until CBJ takes definitive action to control the use of consumer fireworks in its parks, areas like Savikko Park will continue to be the source of disturbances to other park users and nearby residents. As a user and a nearby resident, I am counting on the PRAC to help tame the use of these parks and make them enjoyable for the majority of their users, not for the minority of the users who are basically playing with matches and celebrating nothing more than a good night's drinking.

Best regards,

Brett Farrell

504 St. Anns Ave
Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [Lindsey Daniel](#)
Subject: Tonight's PRAC meeting.
Date: Tuesday, June 07, 2016 12:32:02 PM
Attachments: [FireworksEmpire.pdf](#)
[FireworksEmpire6June2016.pdf](#)

Hello Lindsey -

Just by way of submitting more evidence of public concern on the fireworks issue, attached please find yesterday's Empire letter from Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, as well as a PDF summary of 3 past Empire publications & comments from 2014-2016.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing



juneau residents for action on fireworks



All

News

Images

Maps

Shopping

More ▼

Search tools

About 76,500 results (0.50 seconds)

Juneau Fireworks - Facebook

www.facebook.com › Places › Juneau, Alaska ▼

Juneau Fireworks, Juneau, Alaska. 106 likes · 107 talking about this. **Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks.**

Letter: No backyard barrages | Juneau Empire - Alaska's Capital City ...

juneauempire.com › Letters ▼ Juneau Empire ▼

1 day ago - Discussions about fireworks noise in neighborhoods and parks often feature comments such as ... **Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks.**

Letter: Let the elderly, infants and pets live in peace | Juneau Empire ...

juneauempire.com › Letters ▼ Juneau Empire ▼

Jan 6, 2016 - Why does the City and Borough of Juneau and Juneau Police ... Letter: Be neighborly and lay off the fireworks ... of the lack of action by our city manager, the assembly, JPD, and the Fire Department. ... "Dear Juneau Resident,

Juneau needs an improved fireworks policy | Juneau Empire ...

juneauempire.com › Opinion ▼ Juneau Empire ▼

Jun 29, 2014 - Juneau needs a fireworks policy and designated area(s) for the ... own fireworks policy to meet the needs of their residents, but Juneau has not.

Empire Editorial: Firework use should come down to respect | Juneau ...

juneauempire.com › Opinion ▼ Juneau Empire ▼

Jan 7, 2015 - For longtime residents, this issue is nothing new. ... **Fireworks** don't need to be banned

Posted: January 6, 2016 - 1:04am

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve, my neighborhood once again became a war zone. My wife and I had barely finished dinner when one of our not-so-neighborly neighbors decided it would be a good idea to celebrate the holiday by setting off high-powered fireworks about 150 feet from our back door.

As the night went on, it became painfully obvious that this man had no intentions of letting us celebrate our holiday in a manner of our choosing. Instead, he made the decision to force us to celebrate in a manner of his.

For the next five and a half hours, this misguided individual proceeded to set off his arsenal of high-powered explosives every few minutes until nearly 1 a.m. It seems that I need to remind certain people (as if this isn't common sense) that your neighbors do not want to hear explosions outside their home for the entire evening.

It is criminal, in my opinion, that this man was able to disturb the peace of our neighborhood (and yes, it is disturbing the peace) with no fear of being cited for disturbing the peace. Why does the City and Borough of Juneau and Juneau Police Department turn a blind eye to this huge problem? What is it going to take for somebody to wake up?

At the same time, I can have a celebration in my home tonight, and if I play my music loud, our neighbor can call the police and I can be cited for violating a CBJ ordinance.

I would like to ask all of the wonderful people on our Assembly if this makes any sense to them whatsoever?

Happy New Year!

Ian Martin,

Juneau



Brad Fluetsch 01/10/16 - 07:34 am

8 3

MORE

6472
POINTS

Quiet Enjoyment

The CBJ fails to enforce this basic covenant of real estate. A landlord could be held accountable in court for failing to provide quiet enjoyment to their tenant. Why is there no remedy for land owners who's neighbors impair the quiet enjoyment of their property?

It is an easy fix, yet it still evades Assembly's attention.

btw Ian, I have an idiot neighbor who sets off seal bombs.

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)



Lorraine Murray 01/19/16 - 08:30 am

8 3

MORE

675
POINTS

Turning a blind eye

Brad is right.

There are solutions to this problem. This problem has been allowed to become the monstrous problem it is today because of the lack of action by our city manager, the assembly, JPD, and the Fire Department. They have all turned a blind eye and a deaf ear and put the public in harms way. And there has been no accountability for how this whole mess has unfolded.... No accountability for how a few CBJ employees at JPD & Fire went rogue and began telling the public that fireworks were legal in Juneau.

This is what happened to me:

A few years ago when fireworks started around my home I called JPD. I was told by dispatch that a law had changed which legalized fireworks in Juneau, but dispatch couldn't tell me which law. So, I asked to speak to the supervisor and the supervisor (a police officer) told me the same thing but he added that if he had to work nights and then try to sleep when people were out mowing their lawns during the day, then I should be able to put up with fireworks.

lawns during the day, then I should be able to put up with fireworks. Yikes, right. Yes he really did say that to me. Can you imagine talking to a customer like that where you work? I did call back and spoke with his supervisor but he was not able to tell me what law changed either.

So, then I called the law Dept at CBJ and they told me that no law had changed, that fireworks were still "illegal" in Juneau except for the public display downtown on the 4th. So I went back and forth with JPD and CBJ trying to find out what was going on. Then CBJ Law went to talk to JPD to find out what was up..... it turned out to be an "unintended consequence" of CBJ's building code overhaul that "SORT OF" legalized the use of fireworks. When Title 19 was overhauled, Title 19 codes were merged with the states and National codes and it just so happened that after the merge there is one tiny little sentence that reads: "permits are not required for 1.4G class fireworks". That's it.

So a few CBJ employees ran with that one little sentence without going through normal procedures like checking with their boss, or their boss checking with the law dept. or wow how about CBJ checking with the public via our public process. Nope none of the stuff that is supposed to happen happened. There was no public notice, no public hearings, no opportunity for the public to give input...no democracy in Juneau.

So that is why people can now set off explosives in your neighborhood next to your home and cause you harm, traumatize you, your family and your pets.... Its just an unintended consequence.

What happened was wrong and it needs to be fixed. We should not be having explosives used in our neighborhoods, next to our homes.

We can't prevent every mistake that happens, mistakes are bound to happen but whats really important is what we do when mistakes happen. We have to come clean and be as transparent as possible and there has to be consequences. And we have to learn from the mistakes so they don't happen again. This is part of the real tragedy here because as this whole thing has played out in plain view no one over at CBJ called it, and no one has stood up to stop it or change course... they are all just letting this go too far and 4th of July is right around the corner.

Loud music violates the noise ordinance but not fireworks?

Below is from Juneau Police Mobile site / Ask a Dispatcher/ Category Noise :

"Dear Juneau Resident,

Those of us living near main roads share your pain. The CBJ ordinance that can be applied to this situation is 42.20.095 (c) and has a \$300 fine. The restriction JPD officers face is the violation has to happen between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.. Officers have to hear the music or other noise 30 feet away from the vehicle between those hours. A citation can also be written if a citizen will provide information that he or she witnessed the violation and will testify in place of the officer. The officer still has to do enough investigation to confirm to a reasonable degree that the violation happened.

It is a presumption under the ordinance that the owner of the vehicle is responsible for the noise and is on the hook even if a teenager is driving"

I posted that because it shows how ineffective our Noise Ordinance is in general.

We can cut through all the noise ordinance BS by creating an ordinance that spells out what can and cannot be done with fireworks in our community. And this is exactly what is supposed to happen.

Juneau is one of the only communities in Alaska, probably the country, that does not have a Fireworks Ordinance to regulate the use of fireworks. I think the majority of communities in Alaska restrict the use of fireworks to public displays which is what we should do here.

Those of us that grew up here, grew up feeling that our city cared about how each one of us was doing and I still want that for my community. We should all care about how each other is doing. It is not right to ignore the impacts these "high power" explosives are having on our neighbors. Its not right.

Empire Editorial: Firework use should come down to respect

Posted: January 7, 2015 - 1:00am

JUNEAU EMPIRE

There's been fuss lately about the use of fireworks in Juneau. Upon completion of the holiday season, the Empire received a few letters from residents asking for the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly to consider pursuing an ordinance on firework use.

We sympathize; it wouldn't be pleasant to put a Christmas celebration on hold due to an impromptu fireworks extravaganza next door. And we agree that "no one should be forced to endure hours of random blasts from fireworks next to their homes." Some suffer from health issues that could be further aggravated by loud booms, especially unexpected ones. Plus, we all know what can happen to pets when fireworks go off. Finding them shuddering under the bed is a likely scenario, but not the worst, for certain.

For longtime residents, this issue is nothing new. Every three to four years, firework use picks up, especially around New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July. Then, the complaints roll in. An ordinance in CBJ city code prohibits the sale of fireworks within city limits, but possession of sparklers, Roman candles and the like is legal and there's no law against setting them off. However, it is illegal to set off fireworks on federal land, such as within the Tongass National Forest.

We think it all comes down to respect. As community members we must employ civility and courtesy when it comes to the treatment of our neighbors. This is especially true when dealing with explosives, even if they are bright and beautiful to many.

Fireworks don't need to be banned completely in Juneau; not like they are in other Alaskan cities like Anchorage, for instance. There, anyone violating the ban faces a \$500 fine. We enjoy the festive light they bring to an otherwise dark night. They are exhilarating and exciting.

Bans will be put in place, however, if residents don't exercise respect. If the problem continues and complaints don't recede, the city may be forced to act. Residents as a whole likely won't be pleased with the outcome. At the very least it will be restrictive — more so than they already are.

How does the old adage go? Abuse a privilege; lose a privilege.

Actually I would like to

Actually, I would like to point out that as long as I can remember fireworks were treated as illegal in our community under our "Disturbing the Peace Ordinance". However, around 2008, CBJ (actually JPD) began telling residents (that called to "complain" about fireworks going off near thier homes) that a law had recently changed and fireworks were now legal. But that information was not really the whole truth.

What had actually happened was an "unintended consequence" of a major overhaul of our building codes. Our city, state and national codes were all merged. So now, if you look at Title 19 under fireworks there is one sentence that basically states - permits are not required for 1.4g fireworks. City employees ran with this and started telling the public that a law had changed and fireworks are now legal.

So here we are today, having to basically try and "put the cat back in its bag" because fireworks should not be used in residential areas and they should not be forced on people because they are too loud and very dangerous.

Fireworks totally change the character of our neighborhoods. Over the years residents of Juneau have overwhelmingly said that preserving the character of their neighborhoods is very important to them. Fireworks go against every guideline established for healthy communities. The noise level guideline for residential areas is around 70 db. Decibels are logarithmic so the if the noise is 73 db that's twice as loud as 70 db. 80 db is ten times as loud as 70 db. This is serious because 10 times 80 db is 90 db and 90 db is 100 times louder than 70 db. We should not allow an activity in our residential areas that produces noise at these levels - especially impulsive noise which is much more harmful than a steady long durational noise like - mowing. We all hear it coming and going it is totally different than impulsive noise.

Also, one of the fundamental principles of this community is the right of the public to give input on decisions that impact our residential areas - not only did the public not give input on the use of fireworks near our homes - this right is now being blocked by CBJ and the Assembly. They are not allowing this topic to be discussed. We will lose this right if we don't speak up about it.

Juneau is headed in the wrong direction regarding fireworks. Random blasting for hours near our homes is just wrong. Yes there are people that enjoy the loud noise but many people don't. And the noise is loud enough that not only is it harmful to the public and pets, but it is preventing many people from being able to enjoy the holidays or even use their yard. This is not a noise sensitivity issue, it is a public safety issue that is being allowed to get worse. Being exposed to 145 db - 180 db while in our yard is harmful to our health and wellbeing.

My hearing was damaged by my neighbor's fireworks a couple years ago. As I walked over to their house to talk to them about what they were doing their fireworks went off. I was standing in the street at the time about 150' away. I didn't realize at the time what had happened to me but I know now just how dangerous it is for CBJ to be allowing these things to be set off near our homes.

Our residential areas are expected to get even more crowded. We have a serious problem with fireworks now but it is going to get much worse, as each year more people are setting off fireworks in their back yards, around fire pits as they drink alcohol and with their little kids around.

Our residential areas are supposed to be safe places. We should all be able to safely use our yards. People and families should be able to take walks with their children and pets on the sidewalks in their neighborhoods - especially during the holidays.

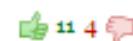
But all it takes is one misguided firework to cause injury, or just one loud blast to frighten a child or a pet off the sidewalk into the street as a car is passing by..... just one.

Some folks say fireworks should be allowed because they are a sign of patriotism, or because they are part of our culture or because they think fireworks are pretty etc.. This reminds of the saying: You can put lipstick on a pig but it's still a pig. Fireworks are and will always be dangerous explosive devices.

I think the only place residents should be able to use fireworks is in designated areas. Fireworks are a product and they should not be forced on people that are saying they are being harmed by the fireworks. As a community we listen to people when they are saying that they are being harmed, it is time for CBJ to start listening to all the people saying that they are being harmed by the use of fireworks near their homes.

We designate areas for dangerous activities all the time, we have smoking areas, gun ranges, dog free trails etc.

Elva Bontrager 01/07/15 - 12:12 pm



July 4th Fireworks over the Water OK

I think CBJ setting off fireworks once a year is something we can live with. Other than then, though, I think there should be a designated place away from residences for any fireworks other than sparklers. Our pets and vulnerable people suffer from the blasts and it isn't a pleasant thing to see.

Eaglecrest comes to mind as a destination. Maybe a bus, like those put into use at ski season, could haul revelers to the mountain for a happy party at New Year's. I think it could become a fun yearly tradition.

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

Yerrag Aksep 01/07/15 - 01:25 pm



Assembly members please pay attention.

We elect you to address issues like the irresponsible use of explosives in Juneau. Please do it! One would have to be completely deaf not to know this is a problem in Juneau.

Garrey Peska
Juneau, Alaska

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

Quote from absurd editorial

"We enjoy the festive light they bring to an otherwise dark night. They are exhilarating and exciting."

Obviously, this disgusting noise is not offensive to you, whoever you are writing the editorial. Maybe you don't have to deal with it. Whatever the case, you are definitely in the minority.

The official fireworks should be plenty for everyone. Actually, I've noticed that my fireworks obsessed neighbor doesn't go to the official display, no he just wants to listen to his own noise. He will actually go out whenever he feels like it and set off these things with no holiday in sight.

The people who set the noise off in my neighborhood are only looking for noise. They are PIPE BOMBS, get it!!! Nothing but noise, no "festive light" at all. They have no consideration for anyone but themselves.

It appears that the Assembly is too cowardly to address this problem or their allegiance is not to the public.

I

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

We are becoming too sensitive

to anything someone else does we don't like. There are people who don't like the noise children make in a neighborhood. So, will the next move be for the assembly to have neighborhoods where children can't be heard? What about the people who do not like any animals around? Can the Assembly set up a no-dog, cat, aquarium neighborhood? Part of the charm of Alaska is the ability to adjust to what is going on around us. All one has to do is watch the traffic on July 3 going to watch fireworks to know that there are many, many who do. What are their rights? Years and years ago (July 3) we went to a picnic with about 50 people young and older to Auke Bay. All the "boys" were shooting of starburst or whatever they were called. We were on the beach and the fireworks were shot toward the water. Just as my son joined the fun (it was about 8 p.m.), some person from around the corner (on the beach camping) came up and pointed his finger at the 12 year old and vowed to have him arrested. He was a certifiable jerk and lucky that no one in the group rose to the anger bait he exhibited. He was also a coward. He waited until my son shot off (only 1) before he stepped forward and pointed his finger and yelled. I am sorry if your animal is sensitive to the noise, but the animal will get over it, why don't you? Admittedly a time limit would be nice, but that should be neighbors being courteous to neighbors. Ask courteously if they will set a time limit. Maybe a courteous, not a shaking finger, request will be all it takes. Let our Assembly spend time dealing the outrageous financial situation Juneau is in.

Can't They Walk & Chew Gum at the Same Time?

The financial situation Juneau is in is a separate subject entirely. Setting boundaries on fireworks is not an expensive proposition.

Yes, our pets will get over the fright, but why put them through it? As for vulnerable people I remember an old lady I was caring for waking from her sleep trembling. She held my hand tightly until most of the booming had ended. Again, why put them through it?

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

I like the idea of

designated fireworks areas. If someone is away from a neighborhood (Auke Bay) shooting fireworks I can't see that can be offensive. I have no knowledge of the db levels that person was discussing, Most of us have sat in restaurants where the db levels are VERY high. On the other hand, restaurants often build them to be noisy so they sound busy. Truth is we all live together. I don't shoot fireworks but I do watch them on the 4th of July and years ago (70's) some friends shot off cannons (3 cannons, one time each) at midnight on July 3. For several years it was not a problem but then the sensitive people complained. Personally I could do without fireworks the rest of the time but I am not the only person in my neighborhood and if I am the only person who cares I will get ear plugs. With the music we all listen to being so loud we may not be bothered by any noise in a few years anyway. We will all be deaf. Have a Happy New Year, noise and all.

Fireworks start around 140

Fireworks start around 140 db.

***** Now this might blow your mind but 140 db is 10,000,000 times more powerful than 70 db. National guidelines for residential areas is 70 db during the day and around 60 db for nighttime. (this is why we have "residential zones" - to protect people - and if you look at our "residential zones" blasting activities are not allowed in these zones)***** So to say this is just a "noise sensitivity issue" is completely hogwash.

The fireworks used near my house cause a sharp pain in my ears while I am inside my house. Our homes were not built to withstand these noise levels and our ears have not evolved to withstand these noise levels, nor has our cardiovascular system etc. We provide protective barriers from noise for wildlife and we should certainly to do this for people.

I would never ask someone to put in ear plugs just so my family could have fun.

For years now we have not been able to use our yard for days around the 4th of July because of fireworks. Years ago, we were able to have family and friends over during the 4th of July for a picnic on our deck. Now I can't even leave my windows open because of random fireworks going off, let alone sit out on the deck with family, friends and pets. This is not how life in our neighborhoods is supposed to be. We all pay property taxes and we should all be able to safely use our property - even during the holidays. My family should be able to enjoy the holidays too.

Fireworks are preventing many people from being able to enjoy the holidays and from being able to safely use their property and people should not be afraid in their homes, we should be able leave our windows open and have picnics outside in our yards.

****People should also be able to leave their dogs safely outside in their yards while at work. My beloved dog Gypsy....was traumatized by the use of fireworks near my house. I didn't know it at the time but my neighbors were setting off fireworks near my house while I was at work and my poor Gypsy was outside in our fenced back yard. This caused some very serious heartbreaking post-traumatic stress disorders that she never ever got over. These are things that users of fireworks need to know and this is why we need a public discussion about the impacts fireworks are having on people in our neighborhoods.****

I was really proud when our city took action and helped the people having problems with the bright light emanating from the cell towers. The lights from the towers did not impact me but I didn't think it was right to ignore the problems people were having. Now its time for our city to stop ignoring the problems people are having with the use of explosives near their homes.

Our city put a moratorium on cell towers until they were able to put together a plan - this is exactly what our city should do about fireworks.

Fireworks are explosive devices and we do not have a fireworks ordinance / policy.

I have also heard that some people have lots of fireworks stored in their garages. This poses a serious threat to first responders and to surrounding neighbors. Residents have a right to know that explosives are being stored next to their homes and first responders should also have this information.

Juneau needs an improved fireworks policy

My Turn: Juneau needs an improved fireworks policy

Posted: June 29, 2014 - 12:13am

By LORRAINE MURRAY

FOR THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Juneau needs a fireworks policy and designated area(s) for the public to go and safely set off their fireworks during the holidays.

Fireworks are hazardous explosive devices; the noise is hazardous and so is the fallout. Users of fireworks have little control over where a firework goes and the average decibel level of a firework is 145 dB. This level of noise is hazardous, and people should be given ample warning before being exposed to it so they can protect themselves, their family and pets.

We also have people in our community with serious medical problems aggravated by loud explosive noise, ranging from PTSD to various heart conditions. In addition, there are families with members and pets who are being traumatized by the loud explosions, so this makes enjoyment of these holidays very difficult for them. No one should be forced to endure hours of random blasts from fireworks next to their homes, but this is happening in Juneau.

National guidelines state that fireworks should not be used in residential areas near people, children, pets or homes, because when fireworks are set off in our residential districts, it is too hard for people to get far enough away not to be impacted by them. There are many public safety and health professionals that warn against the public using any type of firework; rather, they encourage families to attend public fireworks displays instead.

Our community designates areas for hazardous activities all the time. We do this for safety reasons and out of consideration for others. Think of the gun range, or dog-free trails or smoking areas. Most other communities in Alaska have developed their own fireworks policy to meet the needs of their residents, but Juneau has not. Unfortunately, some of our city officials, including five Assembly members, have actually blocked attempts made by the public to create a fireworks policy for our town over the last few years.

The bottom line is the public has a right to know when and where fireworks will be used so that they can avoid them as needed. The public also has a right to know what risks fireworks actually do pose to their family. It is also the public's right to be part of the policy making process when it impacts their lives. This did not happen when CBJ decided on their own, without providing any notice or opportunity for the public to give input, to lift our town's long-standing ban on private firework displays. Regardless of your stance on this particular issue, we should all do what we can to protect our right to give input on public policy decisions that impact our lives. If we don't, we will lose that right.

As a community, we should also do what we can to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate and enjoy the holidays. My hope is that people will choose to refrain from setting off their fireworks in residential areas this July 4, and instead contact CBJ and members of the Assembly to let them know that you want to see a fireworks policy and designated area(s) for fireworks in Juneau. It is the right thing to do for our community.

- Lorraine Murray is a Juneau resident.



MORE ▾

559
POINTS

Tim Miller 06/29/14 - 11:35 am

👍 10 3 🗨

Is this a sign of relief

Is this a sign of relief ahead?

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)



MORE ▾

5539
POINTS

Janice Murphy 06/29/14 - 01:44 pm

👍 12 5 🗨

I so agree with this

How long are so many people, children and pets supposed to be subjected to the inconsideration of so few. I personally can't imagine setting those things off in my neighborhood knowing how upsetting it is to my neighbors. I know that even Anchorage has a policy against this practice.

If the Assembly people are afraid to address the issue we may need to replace them with those who are not afraid.

The following is an excerpt from the Municipality of Anchorage website.

Can I use fireworks and sparklers in Anchorage?

All fireworks, including sparklers and bottle rockets, are illegal in the Municipality of Anchorage and the use of fireworks is punishable with a fine of up to \$500.00. Anchorage Municipal Code 8.75.040 states:
Fireworks.

The following is an excerpt from the Municipality of Anchorage website.

Can I use fireworks and sparklers in Anchorage?

All fireworks, including sparklers and bottle rockets, are illegal in the Municipality of Anchorage and the use of fireworks is punishable with a fine of up to \$500.00. Anchorage Municipal Code 8.75.040 states:
Fireworks.

A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly sell, possess, or use any explosive fireworks or stench bomb to which fuses are attached or which are capable of ignition by matches or percussion, without permission of that municipal official charged with issuing permits for such activities. This section does not apply to sale, possession, or use of highway or other warning flares, or of ammunition for firearms, unless used for other than their intended purposes.

B. It is unlawful for any person to advertise for sale any explosive fireworks or stench bomb to which fuses are attached or which are capable of ignition by matches or percussion without a specific declaration in the advertising stating: "it is unlawful for any person to sell, possess or use fireworks within the Municipality of Anchorage. AMC 8.05.270 A."

Hi Miranda - As a

Hi Miranda - As a community, I do not believe bad situations should be viewed as a green light to create more of them.

In addition, our residential areas are not zoned for firework activity but I believe the dump is zoned industrial.

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

Inconsiderate Neighbors

"Unfortunately, some of our city officials, including five Assembly members, have actually blocked attempts made by the public to create a fireworks policy for our town over the last few years."

Since JPD cannot do anything about our inconsiderate neighbors blowing off loud firecrackers/fireworks the whole 4th of July weekend, at all hours of the day and night, can we call to complain about excessive noise to JPD?

How about we have the Assembly's phone numbers posted and we give them a call? :)

Letter: No backyard barrages

Posted: June 6, 2016 - 12:00am

Discussions about fireworks noise in neighborhoods and parks often feature comments such as this: "This is a very heated topic between the people pro-fireworks and anti-fireworks. There are large numbers of people on both sides of the argument".

That sounds nice and even-handed, doesn't it? But it is completely wrong. The contention is not between pro- and anti-fireworks. Most of us love fireworks and find them exciting, beautiful and fun.

The contention is between us fireworks lovers in general and the few users of consumer fireworks who insist on setting them off in residential areas and public parks.

Disturbing? What else does one call loud, booming noises resembling gunfire and artillery cannon blasts at any time, any day? How is it not disturbing to have a terrified pet pee all over one's carpet and cower and shiver for hours? To have kids awakened and frightened an hour after you finally got them to sleep? To have your own sleep disrupted by explosions?

Reckless? How else to describe shooting roman candles at one another? Letting little kids hold fireworks? Drinking while handling explosives? Shooting bottle rockets into a crowd? Firing mortar rounds over neighbors' rooftops and dropping flaming debris onto their properties? Starting a big undergrowth burn alongside a popular trail?

Malicious? Is there a better word for retaliation with verbal abuse and petty vandalism by a neighbor who has been requested to desist?

We, of course, have ordinances addressing those three obnoxious behaviors, and the Juneau Police Department is ready and willing to deal with them: disturbing the peace, reckless endangerment and malicious mischief.

Ownership of certain types of consumer fireworks may be allowed under the fire code, but using them to disturb the peace is not. Common sense suggests that better management of where consumer fireworks may be used would likely simplify JPD enforcement efforts for violations involving fireworks.

Many residents are not only disturbed by neighborhood bombardments, but are now wary of visiting our public parks because they do not want their small children and pets subjected to frightening noise and burning missiles.

Most of us in the public don't want to have to organize neighborhood watch informant systems, run out in our pajamas at midnight to see which juvenile jerk down the block is causing the ruckus, rat out our neighbors to JPD, or avoid using our parks for fear of injury or a lost runaway pet. What we want is for the underlying set up to be adjusted so that the problem behaviors are discouraged from even getting started.

We support fireworks displays, not backyard barrages.

We want our fire marshal to continue to follow the safety advice of the National Fire Safety Association and support our existing ordinance prohibiting the sale of fireworks in Juneau.

We further want the City and Borough of Juneau to prohibit consumer fireworks in parks and residential neighborhoods, and restrict their use in other locations to the July 3-4 only.

If CBJ decides there is a need for an area where fireworks with loud reports and aerial lift can be used, we suggest Eaglecrest as a venue that can be booked for parties and fireworks displays.

Cynthia Dau, Mary Jennings, Karla Hart, Lorraine Murray and Chris Prussing

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks



John Taylor 06/06/16 - 07:16 am

9 3

MORE

1014
POINTS

At the risk of incurring the

At the risk of incurring the wrath of those who feel otherwise, let me politely suggest that we refrain from the use of personal fireworks this Fourth of July, both for the sake of our homeowners insurance rates and the safety of those around us.

I know, I know: What about the rockets' red glare? The bombs bursting in air? Dudes, there was a reason Francis Scott Key included explosives in his 1814 poem, "Defence of Fort McHenry," on which our national anthem is based: The British Royal Navy was shelling the heck out of Fort McHenry on Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812. Did he really need to add the disclaimer, "Don't try this at home?"

Flag for review Ignore user



Patricia OBrien 06/06/16 - 02:30 pm

8 2

MORE

65
POINTS

No fireworks in residential neighborhoods, please

Being awakened late at night on several occasions in the last year was not pleasant. I was never sure it was indeed fireworks, as some neighbors tell me, or a shotgun. I shouldn't have to make my best guess as to the house the noise is coming from and then politely go over and ask them to stop. Fireworks don't belong in neighborhoods. They don't belong in parks. Please show courtesy to others and our pets and wildlife.

Celebratory fireworks at the stroke of midnight on the forth of July are enjoyed by most of us. They are handled by professionals. Personal fireworks are dangerous, causing a beach side seat to watch increasingly risky. If the National Fire Prevention Association opposes personal use of fireworks, why doesn't Juneau have an ordinance opposing their use?

Patricia OBrien



Ted File 06/07/16 - 09:16 am



MORE ▾

578
POINTS

Fireworks. There are people **new**

Fireworks.

There are people that don't appear to have respect for their neighbors and continue to set fireworks off anytime anywhere they please. This problem is complicated by the fact that our homes are really close together. No amount of revenue could be collected by CBJ to offset all the troubles caused by allowing fireworks in residential areas. Juneau has a long standing tradition, it's the public display downtown on the 3rd (weather permitting) that only lasts one hour.

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)



Ted File 06/07/16 - 09:48 am



MORE ▾

578
POINTS

consumer fireworks. I am **new**

consumer fireworks. I am realizing that the letter makes an excellent point about consumer fireworks in Juneau. "Fireworks may be allowed under the fire code (state law), but using them to disturb the peace is not (local ordinance). Unless I am mistaken local trumps state.

[Flag for review](#) [Ignore user](#)

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Kirk Duncan
Cc: Rorie Watt; Ken Koelsch; Bryce Johnson; Amy Mead; Maria Gladziszewski
Subject: Meeting yesterday on prohibition of fireworks in CBJ parks

We discussed:

- The origin of the technical fire code change that had the unforeseen consequence of leading JPD to conclude that fireworks were now "legal" in the Borough.
- In 2011, when the CBJ was alerted to this unforeseen consequence, an ordinance banning sales of fireworks was enacted very swiftly.
- That while the 2014 noise ordinance can be interpreted to allow ticketing of fireworks explosions as a disturbance of the peace, JPD is unhappy with this and would prefer either blanket use permission or an outright ban.
- We want the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to consider the submission of a letter to the Assembly requesting a prohibition of fireworks in CBJ parks, either via modification of an existing ordinance including fireworks in the type of missiles already banned in parks, or as part of a more comprehensive ordinance to manage fireworks throughout the Borough.
- Prohibiting fireworks in CBJ parks would encourage public awareness that there are problems with these devices, as well as possibly lessening the number of enforcement incidents to be dealt with by state and USFS rangers in a time of budget restrictions [mentioned letter that our State ranger is preparing supporting a ban of fireworks in CBJ parks]
- We see the parks ban as an initial step in public awareness as well as a public safety issue, with our goal being the **prohibition of fireworks in residential areas as well as parks, if a return to the former Borough-wide ban is not feasible.**
- Briefly discussed the difficulties faced by a "pyro park" proposal, such as at False Outer Point on Douglas Island. Kirk pointed out liability difficulties that the Law Dept. would likely quickly bring up. We agreed that working out the details was above our group's pay grade, but that we were interested in problem solving for fireworks users as well as abusers, and that the "But where will we go?" issue needs to be dealt with.
- Of concern are incidences of what might be homebrew fireworks explosions occurring in the Borough, based upon sound levels noticeably above that for consumer fireworks or such controlled explosives as seal bombs and bird screamers.
- That there are a number of public misapprehensions on fireworks issues that need to be addressed, including indifference to other peoples' problems, anxiety about restriction of opportunities for fun, and fear of "regulation." We will be continuing our outreach and publicity efforts. In an effort to gather sufficient public notice, attention, and response, Parks & Rec will provide PSAs (Public Service Announcements) prior to the September Parks & Rec Advisory Committee meeting in September, with fireworks being postponed on the PRAC agenda until then, due to difficulties during the summer with the committee reaching a quorum.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing, "communications coordinator"
Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Letter from State Parks Ranger Kevin Murphy for September PRAC meeting
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 4:21:41 PM
Attachments: [KevinMurphyDNRAAlaskaStateParks.pdf](#)
[Will this be the last Fourth of July fireworks are allowed in city parks.pdf](#)
[Fireworks1.4G.pdf](#)

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, July 03, 2016 6:49 AM

To: Kirk Duncan

Cc: Lindsey Daniel

Subject: Letter from State Parks Ranger Kevin Murphy for September PRAC meeting

Hello Kirk -

Kevin no doubt sent you a copy of this, but just to be sure it makes it into the packet I'm forwarding it as well.

Sam DeGrave did a nice job in today's Empire article, eh? Have also attached a copy of it for the PRAC meeting packet, as well as the graphic previously sent to you about mortar fireworks.

<http://juneauempire.com/local/2016-07-03/will-be-last-fourth-july-fireworks-are-allowed-city-parks>

Best regards,

Chris

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Juneau Area Office
P.O. Box 111071
Juneau, AK 99811-1071



Alaska State Parks in Juneau fully supports the idea of the City of Juneau prohibiting fireworks in city parks. By having the city parks regulations consistent with both the State and Federal parks it would be less confusing to the public and create a safer and more peaceful environment in the city parks for the public to recreate.

Fireworks are prohibited in Alaska State Parks under:

11 AAC 12.197. Fireworks

A person may not discharge a firework in a state park, except as authorized by the director under 11 AAC 18.010.

Thanks for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Murphy
Chief Ranger

Michael W. Eberhardt
Park Superintendent

Letter from State Parks Ranger Kevin Murphy for September PRAC Meeting Attachment:

Will this be the last Fourth of July fireworks are allowed in city parks?

Parks and Rec to hear firework-prohibition proposal in September

Posted: July 3, 2016 - 12:03am

By [SAM DeGRAVE](#)

JUNEAU EMPIRE

Come tonight, bottle rockets, mortars, roman candles and fireworks of other forms and fashions will light the sky above Savikko Park in Douglas, one of the most popular spots for Juneau residents to scratch their pyrotechnic itch. The whizzes and screams of firecrackers, punctuated by loud bangs and showers of sparks will likely be observable in other parks throughout the city, too.

But this may not be the case come next Fourth of July if one group of Juneau residents has its way.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, a group of about 100 people fed up with the use of fireworks in public parks, is requesting a prohibition of fireworks from all city-owned parks.

"This is an effort to prevent the spread of fireworks abuse from neighborhoods into parks," said Chris Prussing, a Thane Road resident and the unofficial spokesperson for the group.

Fireworks are currently permitted on all city land, a fact that Prussing said didn't become problematic until about five years ago when, due to a change in regulations, fireworks that used to be off-limits to most people became legal to possess and discharge. These fireworks — previously reserved exclusively for professional displays — include mortars, which pack a much larger punch than the average bottle rocket.

Prussing's group is not "anti-fireworks," she said. In fact, she plans to shoot off some fireworks of her own in celebration of Independence Day. It's the larger, formerly display-grade fireworks that she and the other members of Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks said crossed the line.

"A lot of these things are dangerous if misused," Prussing said. "Sure, they're appealing. They're the ones with the big loud bangs and the colors, but they're designed to be loud, and people with pets and PTSD are being driven crazy."

The way she and her peers see it, an outright ban on fireworks in city parks is the best way to reign in what they see as an increasingly out-of-control fireworks use.

The group has reached out to the city's Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Duncan about the matter, requesting a year-round prohibition that includes July 3 and 4.

"Celebrating holidays in parks with hazardous and noisy fireworks is no more appropriate than drunken disorderly parties, and an affront and deterrent to other park users," the group wrote to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in a letter dated June 24.

Parks and Rec Director, Kirk Duncan said he will be the person who ultimately has to decide whether to impose the requested ban. He'll be taking public comment from all interested parties at the PRAC's September meeting, which will likely be on Sept. 13. The meeting was originally supposed to take place tomorrow, but Duncan moved it back a couple months to make sure that anybody who might want to attend had enough notice.

"If we're going to do this, I really want to do this well," Duncan told the Empire. "I don't want people to think that we're trying to steamroll them here. I want to make sure we have good public input, good public process."

Fireworks are already prohibited in state and federal parks, and Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks would like to see city parks adopt similar rules. Kevin Murphy, chief ranger for Southeast Area State Parks, said he thought such a ban would be a good idea, although he recognized he's not in a place to make that call.

"I just think it would be good if the three organizations had similar regulations on fireworks," he said. "People seem to think that parks are a safe haven for fireworks, and I don't know why. It'd certainly be a lot easier if we're all sending the same message: Fireworks are not welcome in our parks."

Murphy said that state parks prohibit fireworks because they are loud, dangerous and a fire hazard — although that's more applicable to drier regions of the state than rainy Southeast, he said.

Though fireworks are illegal in state and federal parks, Murphy said they are still commonly used at places like Eagle Beach. Regulation of the fireworks ban is not easy.

"It's hard to enforce, particularly for us because of staffing," he said. "But that doesn't make fireworks acceptable."

The Juneau Police Department, too, has struggled with enforcement when it comes to fireworks, according to JPD spokesperson Lt. David Campbell. The city may not have laws pertaining to where fireworks can be set off, but it does restrict when they can be discharged.

The city's noise ordinance, which was enacted in 2014, prohibits residents from making "any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise" that annoys their neighbors or makes it difficult to sleep.

Under the ordinance, setting off fireworks within earshot of people who don't want to hear them after 10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 p.m. on weekends is against the law and could result in a citation.

"It sounded like a good idea at the time," Prussing said of the ordinance. "Unfortunately, the practicality of it is turning out to be a problem."

That's because, Campbell said, that police officers "almost need to catch the person in the act" in order to cite somebody for violating the noise ordinance, which isn't easy when it comes to fireworks.

"When the officer gets to the place, it's typically over," Campbell said. "Being able to isolate where it's coming from and who did it, from an investigation point of view, is a difficult thing to do."

Since the noise ordinance was enacted two years ago, the police department has issued about 25 noise-violation citations, according to Prussing who recently requested the data from JPD. None of those citations were for fireworks, even though the department received more than 250 fireworks-related complaints during that time. JPD was unable to provide the data to the Empire by press time, but police spokesperson Erann Kalwara was able to confirm the number of fireworks-related complaints.

Campbell is reasonably confident, however, that JPD would be able to better enforce a fireworks ban in city parks if one were to be issued. Because such a ban could prohibit people from possessing fireworks in a public park, Campbell said that police officers could ask people with fireworks to leave parks or seize the fireworks if need be. JPD has no such authority when it comes to the noise ordinance because it's the use, not possession of fireworks, that is illegal.

Prussing said that complaining about fireworks in Juneau doesn't typically make people popular. In fact, historically complaints about fireworks — and especially attempts to ban them — have been met with explosive opposition, "a torrent of resentment," she called it.

She hopes this won't be the case at the September PRAC meeting, and she has reason to believe that it won't be. So far, the sentiment seems to be running 80 percent in favor of the ban and 20 percent against it, she said.

"The people who are complaining about fireworks are actually reasonable people," she said. "We're your neighbors, and we're nice people."

- Contact reporter Sam DeGrave at 523-2279 or sam.degrave@juneauempire.com.

From: [Pritchett, Barbara A \(DOA\)](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Cc: [Pritchett, Barbara A \(DOA\)](#); "juneaufireworks@gmail.com"; "[Kim Tribo](#)"
Subject: fireworks-free CBJ parks
Date: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 11:33:49 AM

To: Juneau Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Members

I am in support of keeping the CBJ parks fireworks-free areas. This would be consistent with the state and federal parks' practice.

I live near and hike Aant'iyek Park. That park is used quite often for fireworks. As my contribution to the park, I help keep the park clean by picking up trash during my park hikes. I normally visit the park at least 3 times a week. Especially after holidays such as the 4th of July and New Year's Eve, I will pick up at the minimum 2 plastic grocery bags of exploded fireworks and empty boxes. In addition, I am amazed that the buildings and forest have not caught on fire due to the close vicinity of where the users fire their fireworks.

In addition, I have a dog that panics during the explosions. I hate sedating him; but I wish I would have the last 2 nights as the explosions sounded like mortar bombs going off. I was at the park Sunday, July 3, 2016 from 9:15 am until 1:30pm; and assorted people drove up to the park to just shoot off fireworks and leave. Sunday night, folks shot the fireworks from 7:00pm until 11:50pm. Last night, July 4, 2016 they shot the fireworks from 9:00pm until 10:00pm. They were relentless both Sunday and Monday nights.

I do enjoy a good fireworks show; but not at or near my home.

Thank you for requesting the CBJ Assembly to make the CBJ parks fireworks-free areas.

Barbara Pritchett

P.O. Box 211192

Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

Daytime phone: 907-465-2222

From: [Lindsey Daniel](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Fireworks in Parks - Missiles?
Date: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 3:10:10 PM
Attachments: [Missiles And ArtilleryShells.jpg](#)

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2016 10:32 AM
To: Lindsey Daniel; Kirk Duncan
Subject: Fireworks in Parks - Missiles?

Hello Kirk -

As you of course know, Juneau's Code of Ordinances contains this section for Parks:
"Firearms and other missiles prohibited. No person shall carry or discharge an air rifle, firearm or slingshot or throw stones or other missiles within the limits of any area designated in section 67.01.030, and no person shall hit a golf ball or launch other missiles within such areas other than in areas designated by the director."

Are fireworks missiles? Sellers seem to think so.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: PRAC and PSAs
Date: Thursday, July 07, 2016 4:10:57 PM

From: Fireworks Juneau [mailto:juneaufireworks@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, June 20, 2016 4:53 PM

To: Kirk Duncan

Subject: PRAC and PSAs

Thank you, Kirk, for meeting with Lorraine and me this morning.

As "communications coordinator" for the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, I'd like to ask for your clarification of a few things before I send a recap of our meeting on to the group. After the group vetting, the recap will then be sent to you, Rorie Watt, Ken Koelsch, Maria Gladziszewski, and Bryce Johnson, so I'd like to be clear and consistent.

What will be considered at the September PRAC meeting is our group's request that Parks & Recreation support a letter to the Assembly for a prohibition of fireworks in CBJ parks, as consistent with state and US Forest Service parks; this prohibition to take the form of a modification of existing CBJ Parks & Rec code to include fireworks as hazardous missiles banned in parks, or as part of an ordinance addressing a more comprehensive city-wide management of fireworks use. Is that correct?

The postponement of this issue until September is to ensure that a PRAC quorum assembles, and to produce sufficient public service announcements prior to the meeting to ensure sufficient public notice, attention, and engagement. Is that a correct understanding?

Your department will be responsible for the requisite PSAs, with PRAC members doing the actual appearances on radio forums in addition to the formal meeting announcements in the Empire and radio?

Members of our group can be included in any radio discussion such as Action Line?

Will PRAC members be responsible for publicity of the September meeting only, or will they be allowed to express their personal opinion on the proposed ban on parks fireworks, either pro or con? This latter seems to me to be hazardous turf - a PRAC member might be mistaken to be relaying departmental policy or decision before the issue has even been voted upon - so it would be useful to know exactly what a typical PSA might say.

Will there be PSAs throughout July and August, or just one in August prior to the September meeting?

At least two of our group members have turned in applications for the PRAC. The City Clerk believes that selection decisions will likely occur at the upcoming July 11 Human Resources Committee meeting.

Best regards,
Chris Prussing

From: [Michael Dau](#)
To: ["Fireworks Juneau"](#)
Cc: [Ken Koelsch](#); [Parks Rec](#); [Bryce Johnson](#)
Subject: Routine?
Date: Friday, July 08, 2016 11:36:37 PM

This is how routine the constant attempt to dodge other people's fun has become. It's been a long day and I put the 'startle' behind me.

We took Mom for a picnic at Lena Beach today. We were getting set up, and by that I mean I found a hot spot on the beach and set about taking care of that so the dog, or children wouldn't step in or near it. I gathered the trash (beer cans and bottles), to take home and carried still hot wood up to our fire ring. Mike was building the fire, mom on the bench and I unpacking the bucket so I could go get water (to douse said hot spot on the beach). Less than two feet from where Mike stood, and maybe 5 feet from us, a startling BANG! Somebody's bottle rocket. There was nobody that we could see and had two choices; stay and hope we're going to be ok, or pack up, get mom back to the car and cancel the outing.

We stayed. There were no further intrusions but Mike and I had our eye out the entire time. Yah. THAT was fun. Happy to say Mom did enjoy our picnic and we're so glad nothing else happened. But really Juneau?

~Cindy Dau

From: [Brett Farrell](#)
To: [Kirk Duncan](#)
Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint
Date: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 2:15:21 PM

Great. And just so you know up front: I'm not one of these chronic complainers that show up at City Hall on a regular basis, attend every assembly meeting just to complain about something, and/or write editorials as a hobby. My original email may have sounded a little like that, but it was purely the residual effect of yet another long night of listening to fireworks & loud partying while trying (unsuccessfully) to get some sleep. As long as there's a park in our backyard I know we will have to deal with inconsiderate people from time to time, but I honestly think there are some fairly simple (and inexpensive) steps that can be taken to prevent a lot of what we deal with every summer. As I've said, I've had many years of practice coming up with ideas...

See you tomorrow!

Brett

From: Kirk Duncan [<mailto:Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 2:05 PM
To: Brett Farrell
Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint
Excellent, see you then

From: Brett Farrell [<mailto:brettfarrell@mxak.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 1:25 PM

To: Kirk Duncan

Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint

That'll work great Kirk. I have a meeting at 10:00a her in the office on Thursday, but should easily be done by noon. Shall we say 12:00?

Thanks again-

Brett

From: Kirk Duncan [<mailto:Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 12:53 PM

To: Brett Farrell

Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint

Brett -

How about anytime on Thursday between 11 and 1

My office is in City Hall, 2 nd floor

I look forward to your thoughts and ideas

Thanks

Kirk

From: Brett Farrell [<mailto:brettfarrell@mxak.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 10:20 AM

To: Kirk Duncan

Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint

Thank you very much for the prompt reply Kirk. I do work normal hours, but I work downtown and can break away for a meeting with you whenever it's convenient for you – even on short notice. Any time this week would work for me.

Best regards,

Brett

907-957-0692

From: Kirk Duncan [<mailto:Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 9:46 AM

To: Brett Farrell

Subject: RE: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint

Brett – I would be happy to meet with you when we both can find the time.
Do you work normal business hours and do you work downtown or elsewhere?
Thanks

Kirk

From: brettfarrell@mxak.org [<mailto:brettfarrell@mxak.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2015 11:57 AM

To: Kirk Duncan

Subject: Tell it to City Hall Form:Complaint

Complaint Date: Time: Location: Savikko Park/Sandy Beach	Contact Information Name: Brett Farrell Telephone: 907-957-0692 Email: brettfarrell@mxak.org Address: 504 St. Anns Ave City: Douglas Zip Code: 99824
Department Involved: Parks_and_Recreation Person Notified: Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org	
I have resided on St. Anns Ave in Douglas, immediately above Savikko Park since 2006, and my most bothersome "neighbor!" is CBJ. Specifically, the problem neighbor is Savikko Park/Sandy Beach. One of the byproducts of living in this area of Douglas is that we're the only group of people in Juneau (that I'm aware of), that dread nice, summer weather and look forward to rainy evenings. The reason for this is that nice evenings lead to loud parties, fireworks, and other disturbing behavior by people using CBJ's property, and this behavior is completely ignored day after day, year after year by CBJ. Just to be clear, I understand that recreational parks come with the sounds of people recreating. God only knows why the current ordinance would stipulate a 12:00am 'closing time' for this park (because the only thing this park is used for after 9 or 10pm is drinking and raising hell), but I assure you this published closing time is not being adhered to by the users, nor is there any attempt by CBJ to enforce this ordinance (nor does there appear to be ANY effort by CBJ to enforce the noise ordinance that goes into effect an hour before the park's closing time). I'm confident that if I allowed this activity to occur on my property, CBJ would hold me responsible for the nuisance it creates. Yet CBJ appears to take absolutely no responsibility for the nuisance routinely created by the misuse (and abuse) of Savikko Park & Sandy Beach. I am hoping to meet with the Parks & Rec Director to provide an overview of my observations over the past 9-10 yrs, and to formally voice my concerns. I would also be absolutely willing to offer suggestions as to how this situation could be addressed, and feel that (at a minimum) a task force should be developed to address this issue. I suspect Savikko Park is not the only CBJ park with similar problems (Cope Park comes to mind), so perhaps a task force could address these problems system-wide.	

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: "Quiet" Fireworks
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 4:21:07 PM
Attachments: [FireworksNoiseless.pdf](#)

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Kirk Duncan
Subject: Re: "Quiet" Fireworks

Hi Kirk -

Here's the PDF. I wrote this to try to elicit some public opinion on what might be "reasonable" fireworks use on the 4th. Personally, fireworks in residential areas and unsupervised parks seems to me to be a guarantee of an eventual disaster of some sort - house fire, burn injury or maiming - but the notion of 4th of July holiday fireworks being the public display only seems to have been antiquated by events.

Facebook can get tedious in very short order, but it seems to be superior to the Empire as a means of gauging public opinion. A realtor acquaintance affirms that her company now allots the major part of their advertising budget to Facebook now, with results far superior to anything an Empire ad achieves. It definitely seems to reach a younger audience - many of the members of the Juneau Fireworks group on Facebook seem to be savvy young women/mothers.

Staying tuned,

Chris

On Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 1:44 PM, Kirk Duncan <Kirk.Duncan@juneau.org> wrote:

Hi Chris

I am one of those people who don't do Facebook and I look forward to seeing the information in some other form

Thanks

Kirk

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Kirk Duncan
Subject: "Quiet" Fireworks

Hello Kirk -

Just a FYI -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1624667477853184/permalink/1649895575330374/>

Best regards,

Chris

FW: "Quiet" Fireworks Attachment

It's obvious from public commentary on Facebook that even many of those who felt disturbed and threatened by the fireworks barrages over last weekend still make a knee-jerk exception for the 4th of July, so firmly established in our minds of the connection between this holiday and fireworks. To propose a ban of fireworks on this holiday immediately brands you as "unreasonable."

There are, however, reasonable concerns regarding fireworks use in neighborhoods and adjacent parks:

- Personal and residential structure safety
 - close proximity to hazardous levels of noise
 - hot flaming missiles
 - litter and exploded debris
- Increased potential for injury and disturbing the peace incidents in parks because they are *especially* crowded on holidays
- Neighbors who use fireworks on non-holidays and at any hour of the day or night

Nonetheless, the attitude of those who do not find the booming noise from mortars and rockets bothersome (who, in fact, consider the noise a desirable feature) is that everyone else should just wear earplugs or rifle range earmuffs. Too bad about the terrified pets?

Further, there is the notion that if fireworks are prohibited in CBJ parks, people will have nowhere to go to light them off. This is contradicted by actual demonstrated use of fireworks in residential yards, driveways, and streets – not parks. Some ballfields see fireworks; however, the major share of fireworks use is connected to residential homes. Now obvious to all after the recent 4th of July weekend should be the recent subjection of practically every neighborhood in the Borough to hours-long artillery and rocket barrages, parks or no parks. When it was suggested in a Facebook thread that people go to isolated beaches away from populated areas to light off booming fireworks, a respondent indignantly replied that having a \$300,000 mortgage entitled them to use fireworks on their property and not have to drive 30 miles away. To hell with their neighbors who might object?

There are relatively noiseless non-aerial fireworks. Giant 200-500 gram "fountain" fireworks are certainly in this category. These have spectacular tall fiery displays lasting a couple of minutes, as opposed to the few seconds for the shower of sparks from a booming mortar shell. Most cycle through about a half dozen different spark patterns. Nonetheless, obvious to anyone not in a coma or blind, they are also a property fire danger and a burn hazard to small children who might wander too close. And some can be rather noisy, sounding like crackling 22 shots, or featuring piercing whistles.

The demo videos typically appear in a parking lot or field. So perhaps these non-aerial fireworks are the sort of thing that could be permitted under controlled circumstances with proper safety procedures in place - a designated neighborhood area in a nearby ballfield or park, for example, where people can gather to show off their "noiseless" fireworks, roped off to prevent kids from getting too close to the

FW: "Quiet" Fireworks Attachment

sparks. Nonetheless, the fire hazard from the tall sprays of sparks seems to eliminate them completely from private residential use neighborhoods with wooden homes. Do you really want a fireworks fire from sparks hitting your careless neighbor's deck or garage to spread to your home as well?

Thoughts? Comments?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6h0qRAA9HY>

<http://www.caseysfireworks.com/store/4571671596>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BL1p_atEBUM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAmkGFLgxo>

<http://keystonefireworks.com/shop/blockbuster-fountain/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW-z7M6E9oA>

A beautiful 500-gram fountain, complete with ogre cover art:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndxeYZdJlxw>

A frog with glowing eyes and mouth:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf641vzEhhY>

A "cake" firework – somewhat noisy, but nowhere near a mortar round

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLKmoxs7xfI>

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Parks & Rec Advisory Committee questions
Date: Monday, July 18, 2016 4:20:18 PM

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:42 AM
To: Kirk Duncan
Subject: Fwd: Parks & Rec Advisory Committee questions

Hello Kirk -

A look into the world of consumer fireworks products and shows.

Regards,

Chris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fireworks Juneau** <juneaufireworks@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 9:22 AM
Subject: Parks & Rec Advisory Committee questions
To: Fireworks Juneau <juneaufireworks@gmail.com>

From the May 3 minutes:

- C. Mertl: I think we need to have this go through the public process before we take any action. I think allowing the community to weigh in before we write a letter is important.
- T. Gilmour: This is great information but I would like to talk about our feelings and what we feel, as well as getting more information from the public. It needs to be on the agenda and really be fleshed out before we move further.
- O. Brudie: I agree with T. Gilmour. I have some questions, for example, regarding limiting the size of fireworks. Maybe there's a gradation of the products we are talking about what is limited in parks.
- C. Mertl: K. Duncan can you make that happen, please?
- K. Duncan: Consider it done. Discussion.
- C. Mertl: have we had any discussion with law about whether we have the ability to manage the use of fireworks within CBJ parkland?
- K. Duncan: We can certainly craft an ordinance for that. The Assembly has to pass the ordinance. If we don't have a couple of Assembly Members who are going to drive the bus on this thing this conversation will just go around and around. Anyone that wants to get anything done in this town needs to start talking to Assembly Members and start convincing them that we have a viable and enforceable plan.
- C. Mertl: I am going to ask F. Dowd and T. Rutecki to begin crafting some language you would like us to chew on.

We can now check off a number of these points with respect to public outreach, Assembly outreach.

With regard to the varieties and size limitation on fireworks, it seems pretty clear a major source of the noise pollution is from mortar fireworks. People are lining mortars up in multiples in the streets outside their homes, according to at least one eyewitness account from the 3rd. They're cheap - this Facebook post illustrates the decision process of someone who both ignorant of the fact that a disturbing the peace ticket is \$300, but likely wouldn't care anyway:

You can't outlaw them they will always find a way in. You give a person a small ticket for a noise violation but you gotta realize that box of mortars was \$70 and the \$15 ticket

is worth it to them.

What that quote illustrates is how JPD's inability to enforce our noise ordinance with respect to fireworks diminishes the deterrence effect to zero. **We need a fireworks ordinance that enables a simple ticket for possession, and does not require the observation of use.**

At any rate, I did a YouTube hunt for something that would demonstrate the difference between "cake" fireworks & roman candles vs mortars, rockets, & mines, as well as showing what the land space requirement might be for a safe backyard or park neighborhood show. If you don't want to be as bored silly as I was, I've put some time markers in the videos so you can get right to the money shots.

The takeaway, however, is that \$500 of consumer fireworks, can produce about a 10-minute choreographed show using mostly cakes and candles - if one has invested in the appropriate computer controllers and set up procedures and time. Having a couple of acres of mowed field off in the farmlands of New Hampshire no doubt helped as well [you can see the rolling forested hillside in the background in some of the shots - this is not a suburban residential area].

200-gram cakes are pretty cheap, and the ones listed as "mines" are noisy - <http://www.bigfireworks.com/Products/200-GRAM-AERIAL-REPEATERS/1965-CRACKLING-MINE.html>

The bigger 500 cakes are not so cheap, btw - here's the page from Big Fireworks, complete with videos. The beautiful "Multiplicity" cake cost \$189 (before shipping) and lasts 1 minute. The "Duplicity" case only lasts 40 seconds.

<http://www.bigfireworks.com/Products/500-Gram-Zipper-Repeaters/2539-MULTIPLICITY.html>

Compared with a beautiful \$20 fountain that lasts over 2 1/2 minutes *[eyeroll-alert at name of product]*

<http://www.bigfireworks.com/Products/500-GRAM-FOUNTAINS/2351-ENORMOUS-ERUPTION.html>

So you can see the appeal of mortars as to price and attention-getting boom, as well as the potential of fountains for "quieter" displays. **However, distinguishing between the types of fireworks as to noise-potential and prohibition of "noisy" ones is not easy. The Fire Code writers obviously threw up their hands and just lumped it all in under "Consumer" products, so it is extremely doubtful our CCF/R and Assembly staff would be up to the daunting task of crafting a more specific ordinance, or that JPD could enforce it.** So the answer to Odin's query about the gradation of fireworks is that it would be complicated, with completely ineffective enforcement likely. **THEY'RE ALL TOO NOISY FOR RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.**

Video bore-athon that I'm trying somehow to compress into a 3-minute presentation suitable for a committee meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSz0h5yf0vE> [SKIP TO 12:00 TO SEE THE FINAL HAUL AND DESCRIPTIONS. WARNING: SHOPPING TRIP HAS BLAIR-WITCH QUALITY TO HANDHELD VIDEO, AND WILL MAKE YOUR EYES BLEED]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6CdZ9ehr9k> [How to set up the show, an interesting if tedious how-to]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0nj3EXrPU0> [The show - observe the two little fountains at the start, and the banging mines at the end - minimal use of mortar shells]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVDDD1tX3EY> [a much bigger show, including some professional products, with large cakes, and a mortar rack for 24 shells - again, watching the tour of the set-up will likely make you dizzy, and mute the annoying soundtrack once the show get started]

Gluttons for punishment can view all sorts of stuff in this 13-minute show, with a frosting of inane chit-chat. Product names are mentioned - Atom Bomb, Neutron Bomb, Hydrogen Bomb, etc - my favorite is Gold Dust at the 5:30 mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-eib-WiL5w>

Collection of bombs mentioned in the 50th anniversary video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWPtF03QM0Q>

The mother lode of fireworks demo videos, Spirit of 76 fireworks in Missouri:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIgl7L8F3VwGnES_kEZrqHA

Hurricane Georgia, one of the products mentioned in the 50th anniversary show:

<http://www.petersunclesamsfireworks.com/proddetail.php?prod=00281>

This cake sets off car alarms. I lit the wick on new years eve 2011, the loudness scared the bejesus out of me at first, and all I could think of was for it to hurry and end before the neighbors would come out, too late, they did.

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Aerial vs Ground fireworks
Date: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 8:25:55 AM

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 6:43 AM
To: Rorie Watt; Ken Koelsch; Bryce Johnson; Amy Mead; Kirk Duncan; Kate Troll; Jamie Bursell; Borough Assembly; Maria Gladziszewski; Rich Etheridge
Subject: Aerial vs Ground fireworks
Today on Facebook:

So you want to celebrate the 4th by lighting up some fireworks in your driveway. Today's fireworks can basically be sorted into two varieties - aerial shots that can go as high as 300 feet, and ground fireworks that reach up to around 15 feet. The aerial shots require gunpowder loads similar to shotguns, rifles, and small cannons; thus, they produce a loud report that reverberates off our mountainsides and water. The noise level can be hazardous - rifle range earmuffs are recommended for those close to the action, especially if multiple rounds are being fired. Kids need to keep even farther away. These sounds terrify many pets and small children, and are difficult to deal with for people with autism or PTSD or heart problems for which a loud noise triggers an intense stress response.

For a lot of users, however, the booming noise is an exciting feature. So exciting that you feel you must defy your neighbors' complaints and tell them to suck it? Well, that of course is childish. And you're not a teenager anymore.

So what do you do? An alternative is "quiet" fountain fireworks. These can have some spectacular fiery displays, some featuring whistles, pops, and crackles. So they can make a fair amount of fun noise, just not echoing booms. The House On Fire from Brothers Fireworks is a good example. similar products and videos can be seen at Spirit of 76 Fireworks.

What's your opinion? Would these be an acceptable alternative to noisy mortar rounds if you didn't want to drive 30 miles to set off fireworks on a beach far from residential areas?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heT0_tyCIP8

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=852844454853139&id=817169875087264

Chris Prussing

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 8:18 AM

To: Rorie Watt; Ken Koelsch; Bryce Johnson; Kate Troll; Jamie Bursell; Kirk Duncan; Rich Etheridge; Maria Gladziszewski; Borough Assembly; Loren Jones; Amy Mead

Subject: Ad hominem attacks

Re-reading various Facebook threads on fireworks in Juneau, I was struck by the consistently rabid tone of those affronted by any suggestion of ending the current unrestricted use of fireworks in Juneau, despite the fact that many residents are clearly seriously bothered, and that the noise ordinance has proven to be ineffective for curbing fireworks disturbances to the peace.

80% of the Juneau Community Collective survey respondents want restriction on fireworks use, with 1 in 4 of those people so upset they want fireworks banned altogether in neighborhoods and parks.

Nonetheless, a constant theme was ad hominem attacks on anyone suggesting a ban on residential fireworks. Rather than take a closer look at why a noise situation could be so bad that those affected were driven to espouse a complete ban, the effort was to demean, denigrate, and dismiss the victims. The focus was upon forcing those defending the proposal of a residential ban to "compromise" and say that fireworks use is OK on holidays, as if this were the simple magical solution to the problem. Completely ignored was the fact that if something is intolerable, it is going to be intolerable no matter what the day. Distress is likely even more intense if it prevents someone from enjoying a favorite holiday. But refusal to back down and "compromise" on an intolerable situation resulted in a torrent of abuse. *"Agree with us, or else!"* It didn't quite reach *"Burn the witch!"* level, but the trend was clear.

Policy solutions to a problem are often difficult to devise, and not subject to easy fixes. But If 80% of residents are in agreement that something must be done to minimize fireworks disturbances, why the rampant hostility and refusal to even look at underlying causes, resorting to victim blaming and shaming instead?

The words used in the balloons in the attached PDF cartoon are directly quoted from Facebook posts and an email sent to the Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks group. If this is the sort of abuse Assembly members and CBJ departments routinely receive from the public, you have my condolences.

Chris Prussing

Thane Road, Juneau

Will this be the last Fourth of July fireworks are allowed in city parks?

Parks and Rec to hear firework-prohibition proposal in September

Posted: July 3, 2016 - 12:03am

By [SAM DeGRAVE](#)

JUNEAU EMPIRE

Come tonight, bottle rockets, mortars, roman candles and fireworks of other forms and fashions will light the sky above Savikko Park in Douglas, one of the most popular spots for Juneau residents to scratch their pyrotechnic itch. The whizzes and screams of firecrackers, punctuated by loud bangs and showers of sparks will likely be observable in other parks throughout the city, too.

But this may not be the case come next Fourth of July if one group of Juneau residents has its way.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, a group of about 100 people fed up with the use of fireworks in public parks, is requesting a prohibition of fireworks from all city-owned parks.

"This is an effort to prevent the spread of fireworks abuse from neighborhoods into parks," said Chris Prussing, a Thane Road resident and the unofficial spokesperson for the group.

Fireworks are currently permitted on all city land, a fact that Prussing said didn't become problematic until about five years ago when, due to a change in regulations, fireworks that used to be off-limits to most people became legal to possess and discharge. These fireworks — previously reserved exclusively for professional displays — include mortars, which pack a much larger punch than the average bottle rocket.

Prussing's group is not "anti-fireworks," she said. In fact, she plans to shoot off some fireworks of her own in celebration of Independence Day. It's the larger, formerly display-grade fireworks that she and the other members of Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks said crossed the line.

"A lot of these things are dangerous if misused," Prussing said. "Sure, they're appealing. They're the ones with the big loud bangs and the colors, but they're designed to be loud, and people with pets and PTSD are being driven crazy."

The way she and her peers see it, an outright ban on fireworks in city parks is the best way to reign in what they see as an increasingly out-of-control fireworks use.

The group has reached out to the city's Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Duncan about the matter, requesting a year-round prohibition that includes July 3 and 4.

"Celebrating holidays in parks with hazardous and noisy fireworks is no more appropriate than drunken disorderly parties, and an affront and deterrent to other park users," the group wrote to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in a letter dated June 24.

Parks and Rec Director, Kirk Duncan said he will be the person who ultimately has to decide whether to impose the requested ban. He'll be taking public comment from all interested parties at the PRAC's September meeting, which will likely be on Sept. 13. The meeting was originally supposed to take place tomorrow, but Duncan moved it back a couple months to make sure that anybody who might want to attend had enough notice.

"If we're going to do this, I really want to do this well," Duncan told the Empire. "I don't want people to think that we're trying to steamroll them here. I want to make sure we have good public input, good public process."

Fireworks are already prohibited in state and federal parks, and Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks would like to see city parks adopt similar rules. Kevin Murphy, chief ranger for Southeast Area State Parks, said he thought such a ban would be a good idea, although he recognized he's not in a place to make that call.

"I just think it would be good if the three organizations had similar regulations on fireworks," he said. "People seem to think that parks are a safe haven for fireworks, and I don't know why. It'd certainly be a lot easier if we're all sending the same message: Fireworks are not welcome in our parks."

Murphy said that state parks prohibit fireworks because they are loud, dangerous and a fire hazard — although that's more applicable to drier regions of the state than rainy Southeast, he said.

Though fireworks are illegal in state and federal parks, Murphy said they are still commonly used at places like Eagle Beach. Regulation of the fireworks ban is not easy.

"It's hard to enforce, particularly for us because of staffing," he said. "But that doesn't make fireworks acceptable."

The Juneau Police Department, too, has struggled with enforcement when it comes to fireworks, according to JPD spokesperson Lt. David Campbell. The city may not have laws pertaining to where fireworks can be set off, but it does restrict when they can be discharged.

The city's noise ordinance, which was enacted in 2014, prohibits residents from making "any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise" that annoys their neighbors or makes it difficult to sleep.

Under the ordinance, setting off fireworks within earshot of people who don't want to hear them after 10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 p.m. on weekends is against the law and could result in a citation.

"It sounded like a good idea at the time," Prussing said of the ordinance. "Unfortunately, the practicality of it is turning out to be a problem."

That's because, Campbell said, that police officers "almost need to catch the person in the act" in order to cite somebody for violating the noise ordinance, which isn't easy when it comes to fireworks.

"When the officer gets to the place, it's typically over," Campbell said. "Being able to isolate where it's coming from and who did it, from an investigation point of view, is a difficult thing to do."

Since the noise ordinance was enacted two years ago, the police department has issued about 25 noise-violation citations, according to Prussing who recently requested the data from JPD. None of those citations were for fireworks, even though the department received more than 250 fireworks-related complaints during that time. JPD was unable to provide the data to the Empire by press time, but police spokesperson Erann Kalwara was able to confirm the number of fireworks-related complaints.

Campbell is reasonably confident, however, that JPD would be able to better enforce a fireworks ban in city parks if one were to be issued. Because such a ban could prohibit people from possessing fireworks in a public park, Campbell said that police officers could ask people with fireworks to leave parks or seize the fireworks if need be. JPD has no such authority when it comes to the noise ordinance because it's the use, not possession of fireworks, that is illegal.

Prussing said that complaining about fireworks in Juneau doesn't typically make people popular. In fact, historically complaints about fireworks — and especially attempts to ban them — have been met with explosive opposition, "a torrent of resentment," she called it.

She hopes this won't be the case at the September PRAC meeting, and she has reason to believe that it won't be. So far, the sentiment seems to be running 80 percent in favor of the ban and 20 percent against it, she said.

"The people who are complaining about fireworks are actually reasonable people," she said. "We're your neighbors, and we're nice people."

- Contact reporter Sam DeGrave at 523-2279 or sam.degrave@juneauempire.com.

What Is an “Ad Hominem” Attack?

Ad hominem (Latin for "to the man" or "to the person") short for ***argumentum ad hominem***,

is a logical fallacy in which an argument is rebutted by attacking the character, motive, or other attribute of the person making the argument, or persons associated with the argument, rather than attacking the substance of the argument itself.

Dislike fireworks
Anti fireworks
Nagging
Whining
DRAMA
Have a lead deficiency
Jerks

Freak
Dramatic
Little people
Small issues
NONSENSE
Selfish
Scared

Crap
Move or get over it
Fake
Asinine
Get help
Insulting

Be serious
Characters
Agenda
Idiots
Self-aggrandizing
Offensive
Drama queens
Nut jobs
Stick up your ass

Pretty sad
Dictator
Not rational
Selfishness
Ignore

RIDICULOUS
Minority
Complaints
Waste of time
Typical
Stupid

Zzzzzzz...
Makes no sense
Just want to get your own way
The reality is...
Fantasy land
Fireworks are annoying & nothing more

Fail
Crying
Get a friggin clue
Government micromanaging
Wake up
Be a big girl
Just like to complain

Petty
Silly
Naïve
Annoyance
Blowhard
Move away from Juneau

I bet she gets mad at all her coworkers for wearing deodorant.

--DK

nancies

You are a bunch of liberal tree hugging assholes.

I'd bet most of your supporters feel the bern and want to limit celebrations to hand clapping and banging pots & pans .

It's funny how censorship works with libs. In order to comment I have to "like" your post, well go fuck yourselves with a lit stick of dynamite up each other's asses.

--NH

From: [Kirk Duncan](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Policy discussion on fireworks and the rule of thumb fireworks policy used in other communities
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 12:02:17 PM

From: Lorraine Murray [mailto:lfm@alaska.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Ken Koelsch; Rorie Watt; Bryce Johnson; Rich Etheridge; Kirk Duncan; Amy Mead; Borough Assembly
Subject: Re: Policy discussion on fireworks and the rule of thumb fireworks policy used in other communities
August 10, 2016

Good morning -

Re: Policy discussion on fireworks

I have tried every avenue available to me over for the last 4 years to fix the problem my family is having with the use of fireworks near our home during the 4th of July and New Year's. I have appeared before the assembly several times. (My testimony is on record.) I have communicated with JPD and CCFR. I have written letters. I have spoken to my neighbors and I gathered over one hundred signatures on a petition that requested CBJ to ban fireworks in residential areas and presented it to the assembly. But nothing has worked. And now there are many Juneau families that no longer look forward to these holidays because they too are completely surrounded by explosions for hours at a time. Those families also know that if we were truly a comm-"unity" then their family would be able to participate and enjoy these holidays and that our city officials would not be creating policy that works to exclude their families.

The status-quo policy that was put in place regarding fireworks during the last COW meeting in 2012 works to excluded more families every year from being able to participate and enjoy the 4th of July and New Years.

Can we do something? Yes:

Numerous communities across the country use this **rule of thumb fireworks policy**: if it leaves the ground and explodes it is NOT legal. Those communities do allow for the popper type fireworks, the ones that can be purchased at Fred Meyers. And a few of those communities do allow for the explosive type firework but restrict use to a designated area. [Please Google: anything that leaves the ground and explodes is illegal.](#)

If we can't control the use of a hazardous product then we should not allow the product to be used near people because it puts people in harm's way.

Products should never be forced on people and forcing families to endure hours of explosions is not only unhealthy, it is un-American. Manufactures of cigarettes used to market their product saying that if you smoke our cigarettes it means you are patriotic. Similar to how some people are equating fireworks with being American or they say, "It's our culture", deal with it.

But respecting other people is our culture and respecting others is the core of what it means to be an American. Let's not let our ideals slip through our fingers. Relaxing our ideals allows for bad behaviors to take root in communities. There are people in Juneau tinkering with their

fireworks to make them louder than their neighbors. What about kids? Do we really want to add tinkering with explosives to our growing list of problems in Juneau? If CBJ thinks they can't deal with this problem now for lack of resources, imagine what it will be like in a year or two.

We need to firmly reject the use of explosives devices in our community and promote the ideals of civility and respect for others. I can hardly believe what I am asking... Please don't allow the use of explosive to take hold in our community.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Murray

From: Chris Prussing [mailto:beadiste@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 7:06 AM

To: Ken Koelsch; Borough Assembly; Jamie Bursell; Rorie Watt; Kate Troll; Bryce Johnson; Kirk Duncan; Maria Gladziszewski; Rich Etheridge; Amy Mead; Loren Jones

Subject: Do We Need a Fireworks Ordinance?

A common attitude from those who oppose any restriction on fireworks in residential zones and parks is that Juneau police will not be able to enforce such an ordinance and police time will be wasted when it could be better used to deal with theft and drug abuse.

What is ignored is the reality that police are dependent upon community attitude for effective enforcement. People need to feel that if they call in a complaint, the police will be ready and able to deal with it. With community support, officers can track repeat offenses, determine patterns of criminal behavior, and devise efficient enforcement efforts. However, if an attitude of community hopelessness sets in, police are viewed as incompetent at best and enemies at worst, and no one will call them for assistance because expectations are low. Without an underlying community support network, an attitude of community disrespect and disorder spreads and crime deterrence becomes far more difficult.

So how does something as frivolous as fireworks fit into a community attitude scenario? The most frequent comment regarding the fireworks situation in our neighborhoods is that the noise is turning them into “war zones.” Mortar bombardments and the sounds of gunfire are very disturbing, and convey an overall impression of disorder and lawlessness. When the police cannot even write out a simple infraction ticket, the community attitude becomes one of skepticism about law enforcement in general.

The notion that small offenses can create an atmosphere that allows the entry of more serious crime is the “Broken Windows” theory of law enforcement. Our Juneau District Attorney James T. Scott says,

I am a career prosecutor, and strongly subscribe to the theory that the enforcement of seemingly minor offenses pays dividends in preventing more serious offenses.

Thus, taking a position that devising an ordinance to manage fireworks noise in our residential neighborhoods and parks is a trivial waste of time is, in effect, weakening the ability of our police to deal with criminal offenses. A discouraged community is a weak community. It is important to convey a strong signal that response to complaints will be prompt and effective. Right now the fireworks situation is one of confusion, due to enforcement depending upon a very general noise ordinance that applies to a variety of situations, not just fireworks.

Residents are often unaware that unacceptable fireworks noise is an infraction that they can report. Or, if they do report fireworks noise, police inability to write a ticket conveys the impression that making a complaint is hopeless. Thus a specific ordinance dealing with fireworks management would be an important tool for effective police response to “war zone” level noise offenses. Police need to be able to write out a ticket for unacceptable fireworks noise as promptly as they can for a speeding offense on Egan.

For those responsible for local government to take a hands-off approach and merely exhort residents to be courteous, respectful, and police themselves is to deny residents the very tools they need to maintain community order. We need clear ordinances that are easily understood. If we all know the rules, we'll report offenders who disregard the rules. Our police depend upon community support, and our Assembly must provide the rules for behavior – ordinances. Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Prussing
Thane Road, Juneau

From: Laurie Sica
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 8:32 AM
To: Kirk Duncan
Subject: FW: Fireworks
From: Mara Jennings [<mailto:maratjennings@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 7:36 AM
To: Borough Assembly
Subject: RE: Fireworks

Dear Assembly,

Below you will find my letter I wrote on July 3rd. I had meant it to be forwarded and it is still relevant for the issue at hand.

I will include my personal view of the solution after the letter:

- > Dear Leaders of our Beloved Community,
- >
- > I have loved fireworks deeply for years. My brother and I would make a "show" each year on our farm in WA. We would plan it all and carefully select our pieces and arrange them on the "shoot site". When I moved to Petersburg I would head to the beach/ballfield early to get the closest seat.
- >
- > When I visited Seattle pregnant I got the closest seats possible on the top deck of a boat and felt my daughter dance away to the beat of the guttural booms and I was full of joy. In more recent years I have been an assistant to the pro shoots both in Petersburg and in Juneau. I LOVE to blow stuff up. I love Fireworks!!
- >
- > Juneau has ruined this joy. As I prepared to pack up my family to seek solitude for us and our three dogs who destroy property everytime there is a big boom. I suddenly understood how my favourite holiday has been stolen from me. The special has been stolen. The anticipation. The wait. People dont wait for it anymore. We have fireworks most every night. Last night sounded like it WAS the fourth. Many other nights have as well.
- >
- > I wouldn't like Thanksgiving much if it was turkey every single night for a month.
- >
- > Or St. Patricks if I had Corned Beef every single lunch for weeks on end.
- >
- > I don't want fireworks gone. I don't want to take them away on the fourth. I like blowing things up. I have just used common sense when I did. Because there were rules to guide me. People meet expectations and they must be clearly laid out. Some will still break those rules, but they will be much fewer than our current bombadeers.
- >
- > Thanksgiving wouldn't be the same without turkey, St. Patty's without my yummy corned beef! I just dont want them everyday for a month.
- >
- > Thank you,

>
> Mara T Jennings
> 907-518-9140

Since that day the fireworks in my neighborhood continue at ridiculous times throughout the week.

My suggested ordinance be:

No consumer fireworks except for December 31st from 11pm to January 1st at 1am and July 4th from 8pm to July 5th at 1am.

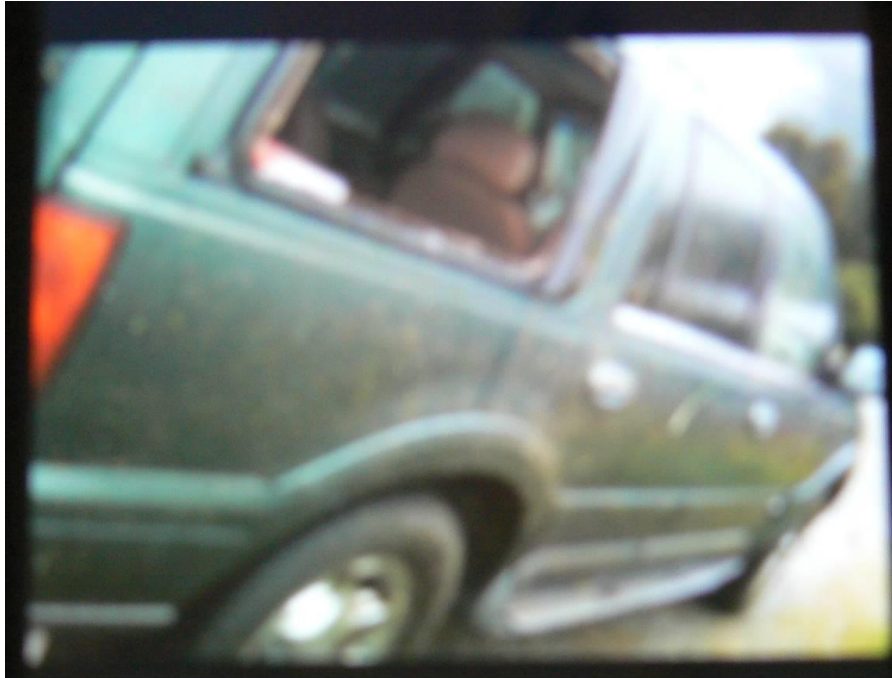
No arial fireworks within 500' of a residential structure.

Thank you,

Mara Jennings

Are Fireworks Appropriate In Our CBJ Parks?

Maybe Not.



“What an errant shell did to our vehicle. It blew out windows. Embedded grass and dirt into the paint. Thank goodness it didn’t roll near the gas tank. Thank goodness the dog wasn’t inside. Thank goodness we didn’t fully lose our hearing. It was an intense shock. ”

Hazardous Behavior



Fireworks Duel

"There are no photos of the man with his head smoking, then pulling off a clump of hair."



"I would rather not be walking with my kids and spouse in public spaces to be caught off guard by some idiots fireworks zipping by my head."

--Facebook comment



"I've been personally burned by irresponsible people lighting off Fireworks in public spaces. My daughter was under a year old when a bottle rocket flew between her and I, right into my lap."

--Facebook comment



Last Fourth of July weekend a Douglas party-goer fired Roman candle at a photographer standing on a public beach.

The individual was photographed running at the photographer, streaming fireworks flashing by the photographers head multiple times.

—Klas Stolpe, Juneau Empire

Then There's the Noise...



“It's gone way beyond ridiculous in Douglas, I can just imagine what it's like out in the Valley.



What makes people think it's OK to explode large firework shells ... at all hours and on and off for days?”

--Online survey comment

Distress to Children & Pets



@&\$%ing fireworks!!! I really wish these folks that enjoy lighting these bomb like fireworks off could see what they are putting my dogs through. Sure do wish they stuck to the July 4th ONLY 😞😞

--Facebook comment



My two year old daughter struggles with them. They absolutely terrify her.

--Facebook comment

**It's Not Merely
Small Fireworks
Like Crackers &
Little Bottle Rockets**



“These are my favorite of all the Artillery Shells.

Well crafted, brilliant effects, and a REALLY big bang... the kind you feel in your chest.”

WARNING
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS

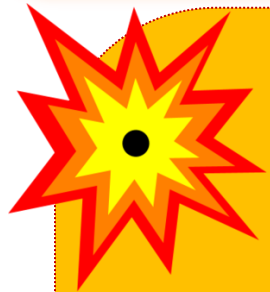


Most Juneau residents do not use consumer fireworks



The “vast majority” of Juneau households are already in compliance with disturbing the peace laws, and are content to celebrate holidays such as the 4th of July with barbecues, beer, and bonfires, and watching the *public* fireworks display.

Most Juneau residents do not use consumer fireworks



• Most of us enjoy fireworks.

**Nonetheless, most people do not view
enjoyment as an excuse to use
fireworks anytime, anywhere.**

**Cruelty to animals is an issue for many
dog owners.**

**Most Juneau residents do not use
consumer fireworks**



**Most residents don't want
hazardous toys around
kids and pets,
nor do they think it's fun to
disturb neighbors with noise from
explosions.**

**Most Juneau residents do not use
consumer fireworks**



**For every consumer fireworks user
there are likely to be
many people nearby who are
annoyed, disturbed, or put at risk by
the hazard to property, pets, and
personal safety.**

Juneau's Noise Ordinance

42.20.095 Disturbing the peace.

- (a) Policy. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health, welfare and safety of the City and Borough's residents by regulating the time, place, and manner of unreasonable noise. It is the intent of this section to secure the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and peaceful enjoyment of all public places, such as public streets and public parks, as well as the City and Borough's residents' homes, by prohibiting unreasonable noise.
- (b) General.
 - (1) It is unlawful for any person to make or continue, or cause or permit to be made or continued, any unreasonable noise
 - (2) As used in this section, "unreasonable noise" means



noise that unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, health, peace, or safety of a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in the vicinity.

The factors which will be considered in determining whether a noise is unreasonable will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Noise Ordinance 13 Points

42.20.095 Disturbing the peace.

- (A) The volume of noise;
- (B) The intensity of the noise;
- (C) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual;
- (D) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;
- (E) The volume and intensity of the background noise, if any;
- (F) The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities;
- (G) The nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;
- (H) The density of the inhabitation of the area within which the noise emanates;
- (I) The time of the day or night the noise occurs;
- (J) The duration of the noise;
- (K) Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant;
- (L) Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or noncommercial activity; and
- (M) Whether the noise contains pure tones.

**Consumer Fireworks are allowed
under the Fire Code.
Disturbing the Peace Is NOT**



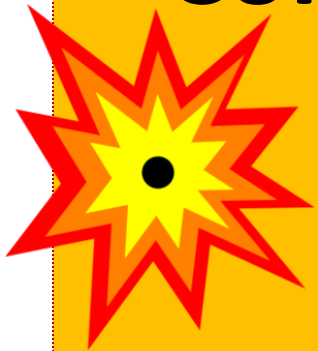
The Fire Code addresses safety hazards
such as flammability,
explosiveness, shrapnel.



**It does *not* deal with
Malicious Mischief, Reckless
Endangerment, or Disturbing the Peace**

**Consumer Fireworks are allowed
under the Fire Code.
Disturbing the Peace Is NOT**

**Consumer Fireworks Qualify as
Disturbing the Peace
Under 11 of the
13 Noise Ordinance Points**



**Consumer Fireworks are allowed
under the Fire Code.
Disturbing the Peace Is NOT**

**At 140 -190 decibels,
fireworks generate a noise level
higher than the noise from gunshots
and low-level flying jets**



**Consumer Fireworks are allowed
under the Fire Code.
Disturbing the Peace Is NOT**

***Any* occurrence of disturbing noise
from consumer fireworks
should be considered
cause for a citation.**



Anyone who complains about private fireworks
in parks or neighborhoods is a
REASONABLE PERSON

No One in a Park or Residential Area Should Have to Produce:

-  Medical report from audiologist or physician
-  Animal control or veterinary report for runaway or injured pet
-  Veterans Hospital Administration PTSD diagnosis
-  Evidence of property or vehicle damage from explosions and flammable litter
-  A decibel meter reading
-  Anything at all –

a complaint to JPD dispatch should be sufficient

Anyone who complains about private fireworks
noise in parks or neighborhoods is a
REASONABLE PERSON

**IT'S EASY TO FEEL TOLERANT &
UNCONCERNED ...**

**SO LONG AS YOU'RE
CONVENIENTLY NOT ONE OF
THE STATISTICS**

Ask Yourself:



**If Your Neighbors Tell You
It's Causing Problems When
You Shoot Off Fireworks...**

**Is This How You
View Them?**



Is This Your Reaction?

- Why? Why?
- What does it hurt?
- / think it's fun
- You're just old killjoy soreheads
- You're not the boss of me
- S**** you, I'm going to do what I want



Most Juneau residents do not use consumer fireworks

“Why the hell do you insist on screwing EVERYONE else because of one or two jerks?” --Facebook post



**“EVERYONE else” does not use fireworks.
Most people consider them hazardous.**

Most Juneau residents do not use consumer fireworks

“I understand that there are people/animals that get upset. But throwing a hissy fit and ruining the fun for the other 90% of the population is a pretty sucky thing to do.” --Facebook post

**The “other 90%” does not use fireworks.
Actually, make that the other 99.9%**



Most Juneau residents do not use consumer fireworks

“I hope you all can resolve it peacefully without imposing on everyone else's right to light them off. ” --Facebook post

 **“Everyone else” thinks they have a right to be safe from hazardous explosives and alarming noise.**

Fireworks Are Prohibited in State Parks and U.S. Forest Service Land

Eagle Beach State Park

Park Rules

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails
- Fireworks are prohibited
- Fires are allowed in authorized structures only
- Disturbing or damaging natural objects is prohibited
- Permits are required for groups of more than 20 persons

Park Tips

- Be prepared for rain and soft, wet ground
- Boil or treat water before drinking, or bring your own drinking water
- Bear encounters are common, make noise and give them space
- Pack out your trash
- Please help protect shorebirds by keeping dogs under control at all times; do not allow dogs to disturb or chase birds or other wildlife

Tongass National Forest, Auke Rec

[Forest Service Home](#) [About the A](#)

Fireworks reminder

Release Date: Jun 26, 2015 Ketchikan, Alaska

Contact(s): [Tristain Fluharty](#)

KETCHIKAN, Alaska—As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, residents, visitors, and campers are reminded that all fireworks, including sparklers, are prohibited on the Tongass National Forest.

"People assume the restrictions apply just to developed recreations areas managed by the Forest Service, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and day use areas," said Forest Fire Management Officer Tristan Fluharty, "but no fireworks or pyrotechnic device of any kind may be discharged anywhere within the National Forests, regardless of weather conditions or holidays. We do not want to spoil anyone's holiday, but we want the holiday to be enjoyable and safe for all forest visitors."

Fireworks Are Prohibited in State Parks and U.S. Forest Service Land

**What happens if someone
ignores park rules?**

They get a citation from a park ranger.



Fireworks Are Prohibited in State Parks and U.S. Forest Service Land



No “neighborhood watches”

Nearby residents are not required to be amateur police and approach violators to discover such things as vehicle make, license number, physical descriptions.

Such a situation often results in belligerence and abuse, beyond the pay grade of the average citizen.

Fireworks Are Prohibited in State Parks and U.S. Forest Service Land



Signage is often ineffective.

**Users show up planning to do something,
ignore the sign stating an activity is prohibited,
then do whatever they planned to do,
presuming that they will not be caught.**

Are Fireworks Appropriate In Our CBJ Parks?

Why Wait for More Trouble?



Time to Say “No”



“It's gone way beyond ridiculous ...



***What makes people think it's OK to
explode large firework shells ...
at all hours and on and off for days?”***

--Online survey comment

Currently, "Reviewing options to address noise from fireworks" is #31 - the very bottom - on a list of goals created during a strategic planning session held by the CBJ and the Assembly on December 14, 2015. But because this noise disturbance is a serious problem for many Juneau residents, we think this issue should be moved up. We would like to see a Fireworks Ordinance in place before July 4, 2016.

We believe that it is one thing for fireworks to be enjoyed as public displays during holidays, quite another for a residential neighborhood to be made to feel as if it's under an artillery barrage during a firefight by private fireworks use. No one should be forced to endure explosions near their homes. Combat veterans can testify to the health implications affecting various body systems and psychological well-being following exposure to loud explosions. Also well-known is the extreme fright that loud noises cause to dogs; no pet owner should be forced to have to deal with a terrorized pet any more than they would have to put up with someone beating or kicking their dog.

For serious reasons we already have ordinances controlling loud and disturbing daytime noises such as gravel pit detonations, barking dogs, gunfire, subwoofers on boom cars, and noise exceeding daytime decibel levels for residential neighborhoods.

However, existing noise and disturbing the peace ordinances seem inadequate to address the problems many residents are having with the use of fireworks near their homes, and are complicated for the police to enforce. We believe it is time to develop a specific Fireworks Ordinance to enable efficient and fair enforcement and to eliminate this disturbance to our peace.

We plan to request that the Assembly and the CBJ abandon the status quo approach and cease sidelining this issue, as private fireworks use in the Borough increases every year. We need an enforceable Fireworks Ordinance in place *before* a situation develops resulting in personal injury, property damage, or neighborhood altercation. Possible options for such an ordinance:

WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THIS ISSUE?



Survey available online at:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/613/446/284/where-do-you-stand-on-the-juneau-fireworks-problem/>

If you would like to join us in requesting Assembly action on this issue, please contact:

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks juneaufireworks@gmail.com

Survey Responses from Douglas Residents

#4 works for me. I live in Douglas and am tired of JPD never doing anything about the drunks who come stumbling out of Louie's and light fireworks off in the Gas station parking lot.

It's gone way beyond ridiculous in Douglas, I can just imagine what it's like out in the Valley. What makes people think it's ok to explode large firework shells above their neighbor's home, at all hours and on and off for days.

#1 for me. We get fireworks every year but unlike some of our friends that shoot them off in their neighborhoods pissing off all those around them in their densely populated downtown Douglas area we shoot them off at the beach. I can see both sides of the coin but I don't think more regulating is a great choice.

Even though I know they are fireworks, it still sends my heart into an irregular rhythm...not a good feeling. Hard enough to sleep without that bullshit.

We'd be happy to show you what an errant shell did to the rear windows of our vehicle. Why should we have to keep our heads down and hope that the fireworks are 'safe', that the person(s) setting them off are sober, in safety gear and are aware of 'safe distances'? This last January, a shell came down before it exploded between our roof lines. Who is going to come forward with insurance if something happens? We don't want to be forced to celebrate a holiday the way our neighbors choose to celebrate. Neither do our pets. Fireworks do not belong in residential neighborhoods.

PRAC May 3 2016

- Fireworks offenses occur after 10:00PM into early morning hours. Controlling fireworks would likely have a significant effect on reducing noise complaints.
- Police response is limited. Simply locating an offense is difficult. Verbal warning is the likely enforcement response to fireworks complaints, and only for 1 in 6 calls. Only barking dog and bad muffler noise citations have been issued during the 2 years since adoption of our disturbing the peace noise ordinance.
- Signage is likely to be ignored, possibly vandalized.
- Expecting "neighborhood watch" activity to reduce offenses is naïve without close coordination with JPD and a dedicated neighborhood contact network to share information. People dislike calling police. Observers will be hampered by difficulty in getting close enough to provide an adequate description to JPD even of something as simple as a license plate number. Approaching offenders is usually an intimidating and harrowing experience, for which the average person is untrained.
- **SUGGESTION:** Close Savikko to group activity after 10 pm to minimize noise, allowing individuals or couples of dog-walkers and moon-gazers. Contact JPD to establish specific officers as contact persons for a neighborhood watch network.
- **REQUEST:** A letter from PRAC to Assembly requesting fireworks prohibition in parks.

GRATEFUL DOGS OF JUNEAU FIREWORKS QUESTIONNAIRE

gd-info@gratefuldogsofjuneau.org

How Should CBJ Regulate Fireworks in Juneau?

- ☐ Ban ALL fireworks in Juneau
- ☐ Allow authorized public displays of fireworks but ban personal use of fireworks
- ☐ Limit the time, place, and seasons where personal fireworks can be used
- ☐ No regulation of fireworks
- ☐ Other opinion or no opinion

Are members of your family or your pets adversely affected by fireworks?

- ☐ NO
- ☐ YES If yes, slightly ☐; moderately ☐; significantly ☐; severely ☐.

FIREWORKS QUESTIONNAIRE

How Should CBJ Regulate Fireworks in Juneau?

- ☐ Ban ALL fireworks in Juneau
- ☐ Allow authorized public displays of fireworks but ban personal use of fireworks
- ☐ Limit the time, place, and seasons where personal fireworks can be used
- ☐ No regulation of fireworks
- ☐ Other opinion or no opinion

Are members of your family or your pets adversely affected by fireworks?

- ☐ NO
- ☐ YES If yes, slightly ☐; moderately ☐; significantly ☐; severely ☐.

WHY ARE BIG DISPLAY FIREWORKS NOW SOLD TO THE PUBLIC?



WHEN DID TOY CRACKERS & SNAKES TURN INTO MORTAR SHELLS?



"These are my favorite of all the Artillery Shells.

Well crafted, brilliant effects, and a REALLY big bang... the kind you feel in your chest."

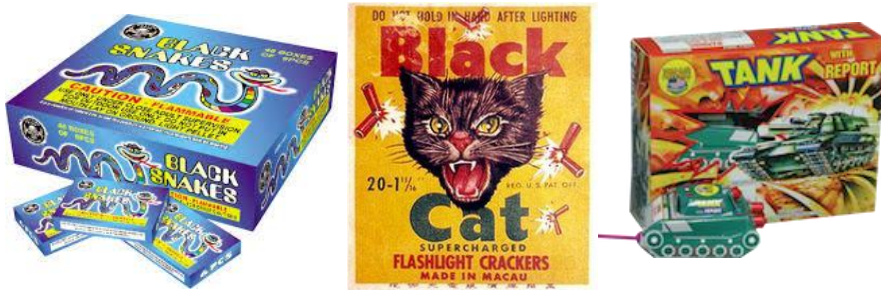


WARNING
SHOOTS FLAMING BALLS

WHY ARE BIG DISPLAY FIREWORKS NOW SOLD TO THE PUBLIC?

THEY USED TO BE CLASSIFIED DIFFERENTLY

"SALABLE"



Class C explosives included other low explosives such as igniters, fuses and "common fireworks", which were the smaller and less powerful fireworks available for sale to and use by the general public.

"DANGEROUS"



Class B explosives included low explosives such as "display fireworks" which were the larger and more powerful fireworks used at most public displays.

WHY ARE BIG DISPLAY FIREWORKS NOW SOLD TO THE PUBLIC?

NOW THEY'RE CLASSIFIED NOT BY USE HAZARD,
BUT BY SHIPPING HAZARD



Hazardous fireworks previously regulated as Class B are now Shipping Class 1.4 if their packaging method confines any explosion to the package. As Shipping Class 1.4, they can now be sold to the general public and are unregulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireworks>

Class 1.4G (Minor Explosion Hazard Confined To Package: Pyrotechnics) UN0336 Fireworks (Consumer or Common Fireworks) Most popular consumer fireworks sold in the US.

Reloadable aerial shells 1.75" or less sold in a box with not more than 12 shells and one launching tube



Single-shot aerial tubes
Bottle rockets
Skyrockets and missiles
Ground spinners, pinwheels and helicopters
Flares & fountains
Roman candles
Smoke and novelty items

Multi-shot aerial devices, or "cakes"



Firecracker packs. Although some firecracker items may be called "M-80's", "M-1000's", "Cherry bombs" or "Silver Salutes" by the manufacturer, they must contain less than 50 milligrams of flash or other explosive powder in order to be legally sold to consumers in the United States.

Sparklers
Catherine wheel
Black snakes and strobes
Mines

**The change in classification was adopted into the Fire Code by the
Juneau Assembly in August 2009**

In order to adopt the 2003 edition of the international fire code, the state fire marshal created a statewide committee to assist in developing a set of regulations that were in accordance with Alaska state statutes and administrative code. Fireworks permitting was changed from local to being the responsibility of the State Fire Marshal. For reasons unknown, no permit was required for up to **250 pounds** of consumer fireworks. The code was adopted October 2004 by the Assembly as Ordinance 2004-31c

http://www.juneau.org/assembly/agendas/2004/2004-10-11/2004-09-09_Purves_memo_summary_changes_due_to_SFM_adoption.PDF

<http://www.juneau.org/cddftp/Codes/Title%2019%202003.pdf>

The 2006 changes merely used the specific fireworks classifications instead of generic terms (i.e., replacing "salable" with "1.4G"), and were apparently adopted in 2009 after 2 and a half years of departmental vetting.

There thus appears to have been widespread agency review, and ordinances presented for public debate. Nonetheless, this was a technical code change of interest only to specialists, completely off the radar of the average member of the public. CBJ's Building Code Advisory Committee consists of "5 members representing to the extent possible: Architects, Electrical Engineers, Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, and Contractors."

February 2011 this technical code change affecting the legality of fireworks in Juneau was pointed out to the Planning Commission by Senior Planner Ben Lyman during the debate about land uses under a proposed noise ordinance.

July 2011 an ordinance was swiftly enacted prohibiting the sale of fireworks in the borough.

Last major Assembly discussion of fireworks was November 2012, the Assembly deciding that there was insufficient public outcry for them to address the issue with any ordinance proposals or changes.

Effective February 2014 a noise disturbing the peace ordinance was adopted, under which unreasonable fireworks noise can be ticketed as a violation with a fine of \$300. According to JPD, there can be Reckless Endangerment and Malicious Mischief issues with fireworks as well.

MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE: September 7, 2004

TO: Mayor Bruce Botelho and Borough Assembly

THROUGH: Dale Pernula, Director 
Community Development Department

FROM: Debbie Purves, Building Official 
Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Title 19 Building Code Adoption Additional Changes as Result of State Fire Marshall Adoption – Ordinance 2004-31

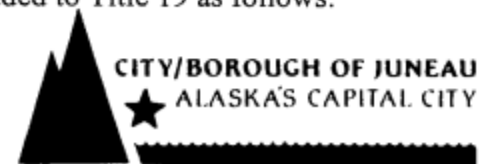
The Alaska Statutes (AS 18.70.080) give the State Fire Marshal the authority to adopt the state building, mechanical and fire codes, as well as to regulate the adoption of those codes by local jurisdictions such as the City and Borough of Juneau. Alaska Administrative Code 13AAC50.075 requires that in order for the local jurisdiction to adopt these codes, it must adopt a building fire safety inspection program that meets or exceeds the State program.

During the preparation of State regulation changes to adopt the 2003 editions of the codes, the State Fire Marshal created a statewide committee to assist in development of a set of regulations that were acceptable statewide. The Juneau building official was a member of that committee. Upon completion, the State Fire Marshal had the draft regulations posted to the State web site. That set of regulations was used to develop the Juneau draft of Title 19. The State Fire Marshal regulations were sent to the State Department of Law for their review last year and finally sent to the Lieutenant Governor's office in July of this year with no notification to CDD of any changes.

In late July, CDD staff noticed that a new draft of the state regulations had been posted to the State Fire Marshal's web site and determined that it should be checked for consistency with the draft Juneau had used in the Title 19 preparation. Due to vacations and workload, the second review was just completed on September 2, 2004. The following are the changes to Title 19 that the current and former building officials believe are necessary to meet the intent of the State Fire Marshal's regulations, so that Juneau will adopt codes that will meet or exceed those of the State of Alaska, as required by law.

In addition minor editorial type changes to Title 19 as shown on the attached 2-page table have been sent to Law Dept. to incorporate into Ordinance 2004-31. These minor changes and the changes as follow have been sent to Eric Mohrmann, Fire Chief, and to the building code advisory committee. All are on board with the proposed changes.

1. The State Fire Marshal has changed the definition of an Existing Building to correspond with the effective date of the adoption of the new State regulations. In order for this date to be consistent throughout the codes, the new definition needs to be added to Title 19 as follows:



[3308.1 General.](#)
[3308.2 Permit application.](#)
[3308.3 Approved displays.](#)
[3308.4 Clearance.](#)
[3308.5 Storage of fireworks at display site.](#)
[3308.6 Installation of mortars.](#)
[3308.7 Handling.](#)
[3308.8 Display supervision.](#)
[3308.9 Post-display inspection.](#)
[3308.10 Disposal.](#)
[3308.11 Retail display and sale.](#)
[3308.1 General.](#)
[3308.2 Permit application.](#)
[3308.3 Approved displays.](#)
[3308.4 Clearance.](#)
[3308.5 Storage of fireworks at display site.](#)
[3308.6 Installation of mortars.](#)
[3308.7 Handling.](#)
[3308.8 Display supervision.](#)
[3308.9 Post-display inspection.](#)
[3308.10 Disposal.](#)
[3308.11 Retail display and sale.](#)

This is the section of the 2003 International Fire Code that was replaced by the State Fire Marshal to match Alaska state code

[↑ Top](#) [↶ Previous Section](#) [↷ Next Section](#) To view the next subsection please select the Next Section option.

3308.2 Permit application.

Prior to issuing permits for fireworks display, plans for the display, inspections of the display site, and demonstrations of the display operations shall be approved.

[↑ Top](#) [↶ Previous Section](#) [↷ Next Section](#) To view the next subsection please select the Next Section option.

10. Another revision in the State fire Marshal's regulation of fireworks requires an Alaska State permit rather than a permit from a local fire department. Since the requirements for the State permit are contained in the State regulation, it is not necessary to repeat them in Title 19.

19.10.3308.2 Fireworks displays; permit application.

Delete and add the following:

"Permit application. A license or permit must be obtained from the State Fire Marshal's office to conduct fireworks activities including:

- (1) a Wholesaler's License, as described in AS 18.72, to sell, or possess or transport for sale, salable or dangerous fireworks at wholesale;
- (2) a Retailer's Permit, as described in AS 18.72, for each location where the applicant intends to sell, or possess or transport for sale, salable fireworks at retail;
- (3) a Pyrotechnic Operator's Permit to conduct a fireworks display or non-routine testing of dangerous fireworks, or to possess or transport fireworks for display or non-routine testing of dangerous fireworks;
- (4) a Fireworks Event Permit for each event involving public or private display of any amount of dangerous fireworks or 250 gross pounds (113.4 kg) of salable fireworks; or
- (5) an Annual Permit for routine testing of dangerous fireworks.

A permit under (5) of this subsection may be obtained from the State Fire Marshal's office or, on a form approved by the State Fire Marshal, from the fire chief.

Mayor Bruce Botelho and Borough Assembly
Title 19 Building Code Adoption Additional Changes – Ordinance 2004-31
September 7, 2004
Page 7 of 7

An applicant for a Fireworks Event Permit under item (4) of this subsection or for testing under item (5) of this subsection must hold a valid Pyrotechnic Operator's Permit under item (3) of this subsection." (SFM, partial)

cc: Rod Swope, City Manager
Donna Pierce, Deputy City Manager
John Hartle, City Attorney.
Eric Mohrmann, Fire Chief, Capital City Fire/ Rescue

ASSEMBLY AGENDA/MANAGER'S REPORT
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Monday September 21, 2009, 7 p.m.
Assembly Chambers – Municipal Building
Regular Meeting No. 2009-19

http://www.juneau.org/assembly/agendas/2009/2009-09-21/2009-09-21_Assembly_Index.php

http://www.juneau.org/assembly/agendas/2009/2009-08-24/documents/14-19.10_Fire_Code.pdf

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance 2009-16(b)

An Ordinance Repealing And Reenacting The Building Regulations, And Amending The Fire Code Fine Schedule And The Building Code Fine Schedule.

This ordinance would repeal CBJ Title 19, the Building Regulations Code, and reenact Title 19 based on the 2006 model codes, with modifications recommended by the Building Code Advisory Committee (BCAC). The model codes include the 2006 International Building Code, Fire Code, Fuel Gas Code, Property Maintenance Code, Existing Building Code, Residential Code, Mechanical Code, the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 2008 National Electrical Code. The ordinance would also modify the Building Code Fine Schedule and the Fire Code Fine Schedule.

The BCAC, CBJ Building Code Official, and the CBJ Fire Marshal met over the past 2.5 years and carefully reviewed each of the codes. They incorporated the State Fire Marshal's modifications and the local modifications, and they recommend approval.

At its meeting on June 22, 2009, the Public Works and Facilities Committee (PWFC) recommended an ordinance be prepared for the Assembly's consideration. With this ordinance, the CBJ would be on the same edition of the codes as currently adopted by the State of Alaska, which would greatly assist designers, contractors, and CBJ staff.

Version (b) incorporates changes recommended by the Law Department and reviewed by Deb Purves, Building Code Official. Most of the changes in version (b) are housekeeping corrections; no changes were made to the intent of proposed changes reviewed by the BCAC and what was presented to the PWFC at its June 22 meeting.

I recommend this ordinance be adopted.

2 *"Permit application.* A license or permit must be obtained from the State Fire
3 Marshal's office to conduct fireworks activities as described in Section 105.6 of
4 the IFC including:

5 (1) a Wholesaler's License, as described in AS 18.72, to sell, or possess ~~or~~
6 transport for sale, 1.4G or 1.3G ~~salable or dangerous~~ fireworks at wholesale;

7 (2) a Retailer's Permit, as described in AS 18.72, for each location where the
8 applicant intends to sell, or possess ~~or transport~~ for sale, 1.4G ~~salable~~ fireworks at retail;

9 (3) a Pyrotechnic Operator's Permit to conduct a fireworks display or non-
10 routine testing of 1.3G ~~dangerous~~ fireworks, or to possess ~~or transport~~ fireworks for
11 display or non-routine testing of 1.3G ~~dangerous~~ fireworks;

12 (4) a Fireworks Event Permit for each event involving public or private
13 display of any amount of 1.3G ~~dangerous~~ fireworks or 250 gross pounds (113.4 kg) of
14 salable fireworks; or

15 (5) an Annual Permit for routine testing of 1.3G ~~dangerous~~ fireworks.

16 A permit under (5) of this subsection may be obtained from the State Fire
17 Marshal's office or, on a form approved by the State Fire Marshal, from the fire
18 chief.

19 An applicant for a Fireworks Event Permit under item (4) of this subsection or for
20 testing under item (5) of this subsection must hold a valid Pyrotechnic Operator's
21 Permit under item (3) of this subsection." (SFM, partial)

19.10.3308.2.3 Fireworks display; permit application; delivery of fireworks.

Add a new subsection as follows:

MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU Maria Gladziszewski, Chair

REGULAR MEETING
February 8, 2011

I. CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Gladziszewski called the regular meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Planning Commission (PC), held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners present: Nathan Bishop, Marsha Bennett, Dennis Watson, Nicole Grewe, Benjamin Haight, Dan Miller, Frank Rue, Maria Gladziszewski

Commissioner absent: Michael Satre

A quorum was present.

Staff present: Dale Pernula, CDD Director; Beth McKibben, Benjamin Lyman, CDD Planners

Outstanding material to be provided to the PC

He said he still has to research the cost of permits, which he will provide to the PC at a subsequent meeting.

He said a new issue that just came up is a complaint from a woman who resides in the Mendenhall Valley regarding fireworks going off in the area after the Super Bowl last Sunday. He said she called the JPD regarding this, and was told by dispatch and two police officers that fireworks are legal in Juneau, so there was nothing they could do about it, but they suggested that she talk to him to ensure that regulating fireworks is included in the proposed noise ordinance. Therefore, he spoke to the City Attorney who was also unaware that fireworks were illegal in Juneau, and he said he thought that perhaps a regulation in the Fire Code had possibly been changed without him noticing. He forwarded on this information to the woman that complained, but she said she already spoke to the Fire Marshall and he said fireworks are illegal so JPD should have done something about this violation, and therefore he said fireworks might be an aspect the PC might have to review in terms of the proposed noise ordinance.

Planning Commission
File No.: TXT2009-00003
June 8, 2011
Page 4 of 7

Concern 5, Noise from off-road vehicles, especially as it pertains to multi-vehicle sources: This concern is addressed through the development of a Land Use Noise Permit process at DRAFT CBJ 49.15.910(a) that would be required for noise sources such as Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) parks and similar land uses in distinct locations.

Concern 6, Noise from construction projects: This concern is addressed through a revised Construction Noise Permit process at DRAFT CBJ 49.15.910(b) that requires public notice, whereas the existing process does not require public notice.

Concern 7, Noise from fireworks: The Planning Commission has indicated in the past that members do not want to inadvertently legalize personal fireworks through a Noise Ordinance; staff investigation has found that fireworks have already been legalized in Juneau unintentionally through changes to the Building Code. Fireworks sales stands have applied for permits or are in the process of applying to operate in several locations in Juneau, and the Fire Marshall indicates that he will take this issue up through a separate code modification that would restrict or prohibit fireworks in Juneau once again. However, as the issue of firework noise is not related to land use, it is not an appropriate topic for Planning Commission consideration. Furthermore, as the issue is much larger than just noise, the Noise Ordinance would be an inappropriate place to restrict the use or sale of fireworks.

Concern 8, Noise from other land uses: The draft ordinance contains a section that creates a Land Use Noise Permit process at DRAFT CBJ 49.15.910(a) that would be required for noisy land uses. This process allows the Planning Commission, after considering staff's recommendation and public comment, to consider potential impacts, make findings, and place conditions on permits for noisy land uses.

Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau

ASSEMBLY AGENDA/MANAGER'S REPORT
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Monday, June 6, 2011, 7 p.m.
Assembly Chambers – Municipal Building
Regular Meeting No. 2011-15

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Docks and Harbors Plan 16b3, Regarding Access through Marine Park.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. May 23, 2011 – Regular Assembly Meeting 2011-14

V. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

(Not to exceed a total of 20 minutes nor more than 5 minutes for any individual).

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Public Requests for Consent Agenda Changes, Other Than Ordinances for Introduction

B. Assembly Requests for Consent Agenda Changes

C. Assembly Action

1. Ordinances for Introduction

a. Ordinance 2011-16

An Ordinance Relating To Fireworks And Providing For A Penalty.

This ordinance would prohibit selling, or offering for sale, all fireworks, as defined by state law, throughout the City and Borough. Violation of this provision would be a Class B misdemeanor.

I recommend this ordinance be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular meeting

1. Ordinances for Introduction

a. Ordinance 2011-16

An Ordinance Relating To Fireworks And Providing For A Penalty.

Administrative Report: Attached. The manager recommended Ordinance 2010-16 be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular meeting.

B. Ordinance 2011-16

An Ordinance Relating To Fireworks And Providing For A Penalty.

Administrative Report: Attached. The manager recommended Ordinance 2011-16 be adopted.

Public Comment: None.

Assembly Meeting No. 2011-17

8

July 11, 2011

Assembly Action:

MOTION, by Sanford, to adopt Ordinance 2011-16.

Mr. Dybdahl asked how fireworks are transported into Juneau. Mayor Botelho said that CBJ does not regulate the importation of fireworks. Chief Etheridge said that fireworks are transported on the barge lines similar to dynamite, as hazardous cargo. He did not believe the ferry allowed their transport.

Hearing no objection, Ordinance 2011-16 was adopted.

Presented by: The Manager

Introduced: 06/06/2011

Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2011-16

An Ordinance Relating to Fireworks, and Providing a Penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the City and Borough Code.

Section 2. Amendment of Section. CBJ 19.10.3301.1.3 Explosives and fireworks; general; fireworks, is amended to read:

19.10.3301.1.3 Explosives and fireworks; general; fireworks.

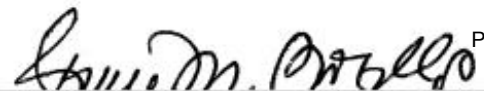
Delete Section 3301.1.3 Fireworks.

Replace with the following sentence:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of the CBJ Code, the sale, or offer for sale, of fireworks, as defined in Alaska Statute 18.72.100 as it may be amended from time to time, is prohibited; violation of this section is a Class B misdemeanor.”

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its adoption.

Adopted this 11th day of July, 2011.



2011 Juneau fireworks sales prohibition

http://www.juneau.org/clerk/Notices/documents/Ord2011-16-Final_Fireworks_Sales.pdf

2012 - Last major Assembly discussion of fireworks

http://www.juneau.org/clerk/documents/2012-11-19-COW_Minutes.pdf

2014 Noise ordinance – violations are infractions (\$300 fine, no jail time)

http://www.juneau.org/clerk/notices/documents/Ord2013-14c-Final_Disturbing_the_Peace.pdf

Consumer 1.4G fireworks

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireworks#Current_explosives_classes

Alaska statute 2015 – Municipal Regulation of salable fireworks, 1.4G class as defined by the National Fire Protection Association and further limited by state code

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/statutes.asp#18.72.040>

Municode for Juneau fireworks permitting – the fire code now merely states that up to 250 pounds of Consumer 1.4G fireworks does not need a permit

https://www2.municode.com/library/ak/juneau/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TIT19BURE_CH19.10FICO_19.10.3308.2FIDIPEAP

“Excals”

<http://www.gorillafireworks.com/artillery.html#large>



★ **Excalibur**

24 Giant Shells Shoot over 200' in the air and explode in a dazzling array of color and brilliant stars. Each kit contains 24 different canister shells with four HDPE mortar tubes! TOTALLY AWESOME!

This is it. You've found it! The #1 selling artillery shell of all time! The Excalibur has been wowing fireworks enthusiasts of all ages for the last decade and will continue to wow them for years to come. The Excalibur comes with 24 of the best quality canister shells on the market and bundled with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) tubes. The shells included in the Excalibur Artillery Shell are the best available to the public, hands down. These high quality canisters break over 250 feet high, and over 200 feet wide. They are unsurpassed by any other consumer shell.

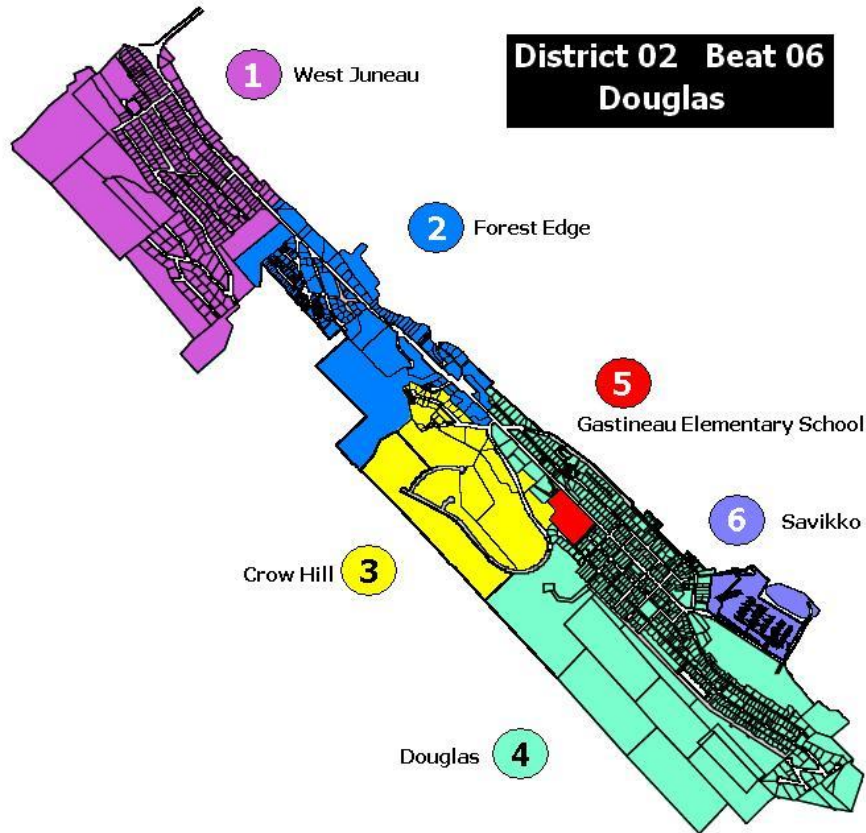


24 Unique Shells Including the Following Effects:

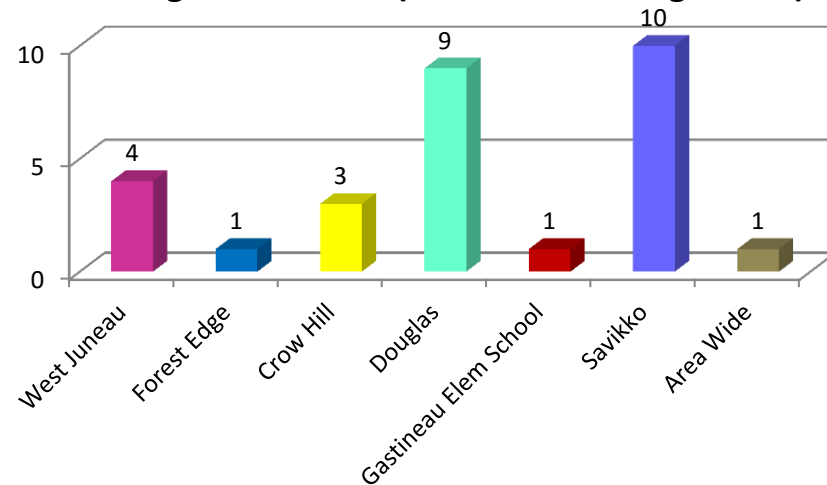
- Jumbo red dahlia
- Green glittering with crackles
- Red and silver peony
- Jumbo crackling
- Silver crackling palm
- Jumbo silver chrysanthemum
- Silver palm with crackling
- Jumbo brocade crown
- Golden willow with crackling
- Jumbo green chrysanthemum
- Brocade silver to green whirlwind
- Jumbo crackling
- Dragon eggs
- Purple and green peony
- Brocade silver to blue whirlwind
- Multicolor peony blue whirlwind
- Multicolor peony
- Silver wave to red whirlwind

Typical mortar
fireworks
guaranteed to
disturb the peace

District 02 Beat 06 Douglas

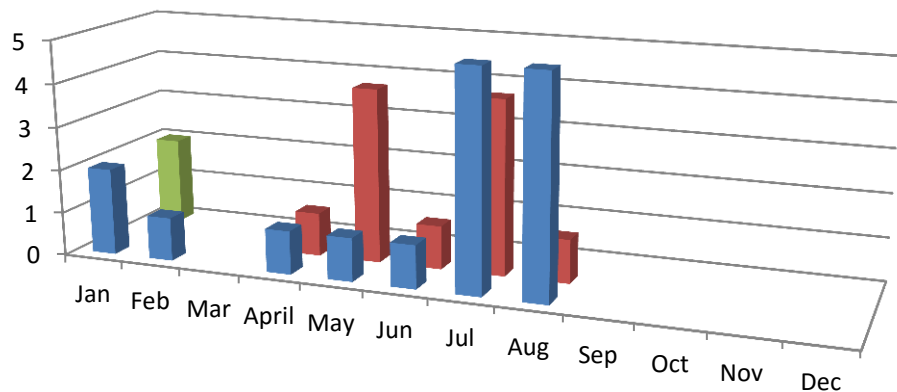


29 Douglas Area Calls (out of 241 Borough-wide)

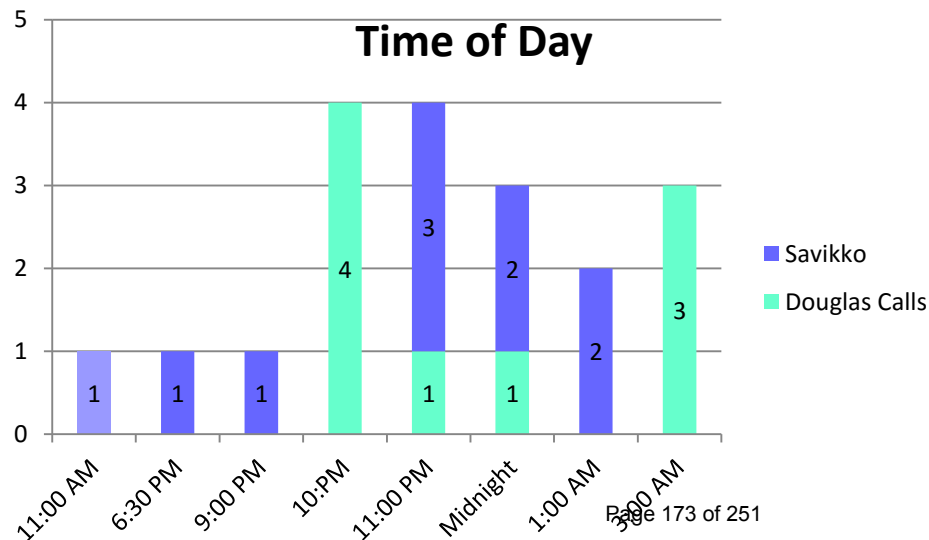


“Savikko” refers to the harbor. Savikko Park is part of downtown Douglas. Closing park to fireworks could possibly eliminate a high percentage of complaints.

■ Year 2014 ■ year 2015 ■ Year 2016



Time of Day



Natural Amphitheater to Enhance Acoustics

230 YARDS

175 YARDS

300 YARDS

Most-often used "launch points"

"Explosions" occur at the elevation of the *neighborhood*, well above the people launching them (which means the people launching them get the "show" and the houses get the "boom")

borders and other items in the 3D viewer

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image IBCAO
Data DEOS/Columbia, NSF, NOAA

Google earth



about 200' radius

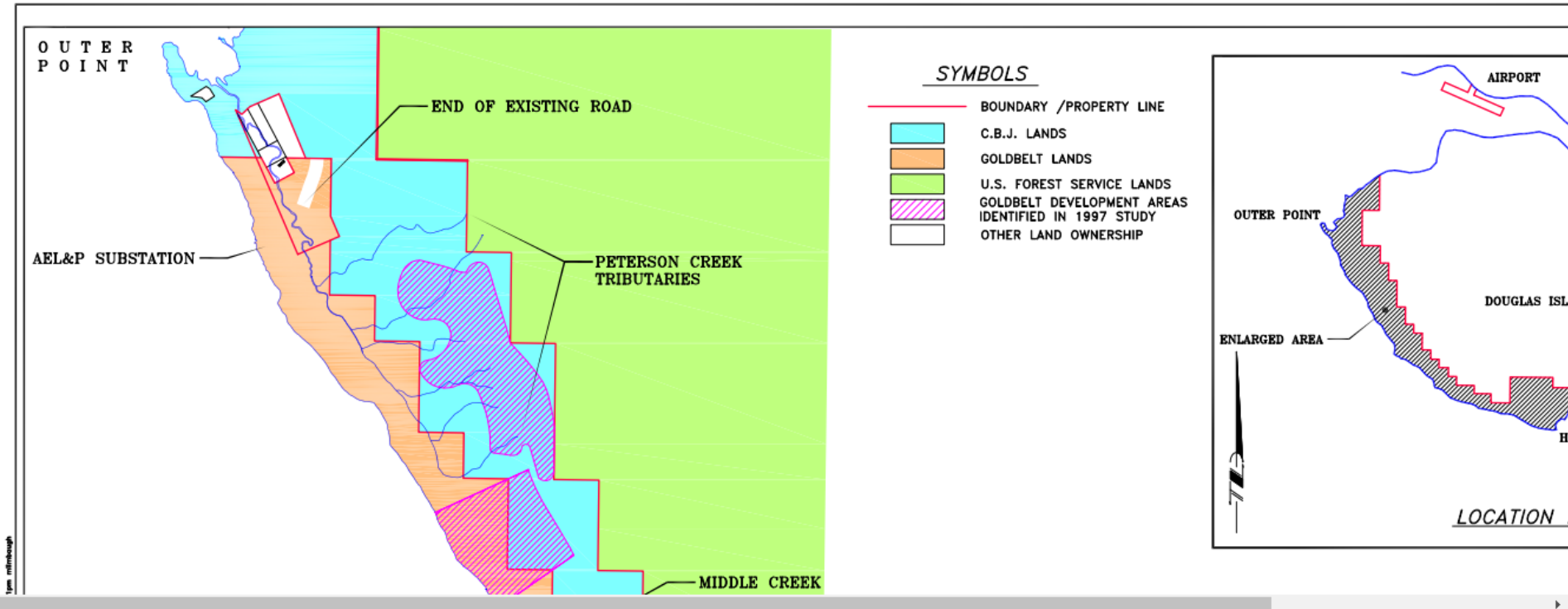
Half a mile away at very low tide is still insufficient noise mitigation

about one half mile



False Outer Point,
Douglas Island





What About That January 29 Incident?

The Facebook thread at Juneau Community Concern documents, as it was happening, the neighborhood reaction to fireworks disturbance to the peace at a drunken party.

What About That January 29 Incident?

It started with this post:

@&\$%ing fireworks!!! I really wish these folks that enjoy lighting these bomb like fireworks off could see what they are putting my dogs through. Sure do wish they stuck to the July 4th ONLY 😞😞

1



Shannara Valley Blvd? A .. uhh.. well known neighbor sets them off almost weekly.

Like · January 29 at 9:56pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Somewhere in the valley.... Those mountains add the enjoyable amplification of sound

Like · 2 · January 29 at 10:02pm



Ashley Roberts Big booms near Aspen

Like · January 29 at 10:04pm



Kimberlee Wear My two year old daughter struggles with them. They absolutely terrify her.

Like · January 29 at 10:04pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Hopefully your little one is sleeping!

Like · January 29 at 10:06pm



Kimberlee Wear We're downtown.

Like · January 29 at 10:12pm



Amy Myers If it's a known neighbor can't JPD do something about it?

Like · 1 · January 29 at 10:06pm



Kirsten Buckle When we lived on Valley Blvd we complained about the fireworks. A lot. We were told as long as they weren't violating the noise guidelines (not after 10pm, not before 7) then they couldn't do anything.

Like · 1 · January 29 at 10:06pm



Amy Myers We are hearing it too in Montana Creek area 😞

Like · January 29 at 10:06pm



Jerry Ann Gray First I have ever heard fireworks going of, 1 , 2, 3 , 4, 5, 6, 7. Before that, 1, 2, 3.

Like · 1 · January 29 at 10:09pm



Jessica Goff It's down the road from us 😡 we've called the cops

Over a mile away

2



Jessica Goff It's down the road from us 🤬 we've called the cops

Like - 👍 3 - January 29 at 10:09pm



Kevin Heuscher Jerry that's what I thought probably someone shooting an AR

Like - January 29 at 10:11pm



Jaime Kelly Zellhuber They are on the corner of, or close to it, hreadneedle and Trafalgar! Can see them from my house. My kids are up and my dog is completely panicked!

Like - 👍 3 - January 29 at 10:11pm



Jaime Kelly Zellhuber They are on the corner of, or close to it, hreadneedle and Trafalgar! Can see them from my house. My kids are up and my dog is completely panicked!

Like - 3 · January 29 at 10:11pm



Kathi Collum Been there, done that. Our lab didn't mind them when he was a pup but as he got older they upset him greatly. We have neighbor's who I swear light them off every time one of their kids gets a gold star. The last few years with our pup were painful because he would get so scared and agitated and nothing we could do but just try to comfort him. It's all we could do. I just wish people who live in populated neighborhoods understood how inconsiderate it can be to neighbors who have pets and kids that don't tolerate them well.

Like - 7 · January 29 at 10:11pm



Jaime Kelly Zellhuber And now that it is 10 we will hopefully get some peace

Like · January 29 at 10:12pm



Jessica Goff Not likely they are outside again

Like · January 29 at 10:12pm



Jessica Goff It's the opposite side of Threadneedle and they are not giving a crap about it.

4



Jannessa Marie Luerra I'm on Gladstone near trafilgar and they are definitely loud booms!

Like - 1 - January 29 at 10:13pm



Brooke Parker Katasse I'm on Gladstone too... It's so annoying!!!

Like - 2 - January 29 at 10:40pm



Jannessa Marie Luerra Are you near garnet or on the Gladstone that's off glacier spur?

Like - 1 - January 29 at 10:49pm



Brooke Parker Katasse I always forget there is two sides! I'm on the Glacier Spur one.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 9:31am



James Harper I went outside to find out and seen the blast just over the trees. Coming from Trafalger around the four way stop.

Like - 🍷 1 - January 29 at 10:15pm



Tanya Holley Perhaps complaints and a petition to the Assembly? And are very large fireworks legal?

Like - January 29 at 10:17pm



Vanessa Duran Good question

Like - 🍷 1 - January 29 at 10:20pm



Shatem Carrera They are legal

Like - January 30 at 4:28am



Vanessa Duran It's just complete inconsiderate. I'm trying to sleep & can't. Plus my pup is having a full on attack of anxiety.

Like - 🍷 1 - January 29 at 10:18pm



Paul Duran Poor dog

Like - January 29 at 11:38pm



Vanessa Duran You better watch it, Juan, I know where you work 😊

Like - January 29 at 10:19pm



Jerome Dennis Its after ten everybody call now they'll have to do something now

Like - January 29 at 10:20pm



Sarah Elisabeth Whisenant I just had some right outside my window on mendenhall blvd

Like - 🍷 1 - January 29 at 10:20pm



Jessica Goff Cops just left from the place with fireworks, hopefully it'll stop now.

Like - 🍷 10 - January 29 at 10:30pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Yay!! You rock Jessica 😊

Like - 🍷 3 - January 29 at 10:33pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Yay!! You rock Jessica 😊

Like · 🍷 3 · January 29 at 10:33pm



Jessica Goff I have zero issues being that asshole who calls the cops after so many are lit off. One or two maybe but after how many I can't take it. I have a small child trying to sleep, a dog losing her mind and a husband who's been deployed three times. I don't have time for that bs, and I don't care if I'm classified as the cranky neighbor for calling 😊

Like · 🍷 9 · January 29 at 10:36pm



Alan Cleveland You got me at "husband deployed 3 times."

I often wonder about the sounds of helicopters flying over the glacier how it might effect someone with PTSD?

Like · 🍷 2 · January 30 at 6:30am



Jessica Goff Wasn't just me, damn near the whole street called them in. Dispatch said they have 15+ calls about it on our street.

Like · 🍷 9 · January 29 at 10:34pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Good!

Like · January 29 at 10:41pm



Bethany Thorsteinson Was this on Mendenhall Blvd?

Like · January 30 at 10:55am



Jessica Goff It was the cross of Threadneedle and Trafalgar Ave off of mendenhall Blvd.

Like · January 30 at 1:12pm



Bethany Thorsteinson Thank you!

Like · January 30 at 1:26pm



SK Harmon The vet gave me some doggy sedatives. They also make more natural drops if you don't want to give them a pill. I hate [fireworks](#) for that exact reason. Poor pups...

Like · 🍷 2 · January 29 at 10:54pm



Jessica Goff They work great if you know in advanced, we use them for New Years and 4th of July.

Like · January 29 at 11:04pm



Jessica Goff Oh for the love of \$*%K! I'm tired of completely disrespectful people!

Like - 4 - January 29 at 11:04pm



Jolene Smith Goodness. Whatever happened to stepping outside and yelling at the noisemakers that you're going to make a phone call, rather than immediately going to socia media to complain 😊 So passive aggressive and pointless.

Like - 3 - January 29 at 11:22pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson I didn't know where it was coming from. Those that knew the exact location did talk to those shooting them off and did call JPD when they continued passed the set noise ordinance. Not pointless, rather, a community concern.

Like - 9 - January 29 at 11:26pm - Edited



Jessica Goff Jolene Smith the neighbors near those who set the fireworks off did attempt to ask that they stop, however they chose not to. So JPD was involved as it had past the opportunity to resolve without the police intervening.

Like - 8 - January 29 at 11:27pm



Jolene Smith Okay, I'm glad! I hope it was resolved.

Like - January 29 at 11:28pm



Jessica Goff Unfortunately no, it seems as soon as the police leave they shoot more off. If it was on 4th of July or New Years we would all understand, but it is not and most of this neighborhood is families with kiddos and dogs.

Like - January 29 at 11:29pm



Vanessa Duran Come on enough already with the fireworks. Some of us want to sleep 😊

Like - 1 - January 29 at 11:33pm



Joel Brownlow 11:32, they just lit off two back to back.
I can hear them clear as day over on valley boulevard, like they're right outside my window.

Like · January 29 at 11:33pm

Half mile away



Ashley Roberts And again wrf

Like · January 29 at 11:34pm



Joel Brownlow I've heard 5 or 6 in the last 2 minutes.

Like · January 29 at 11:35pm



Michelle Walsh Anderson Those that live where this is happening call JPD again, they have been warned, now time for a citation and fine!!

Like · 🍊 4 · January 29 at 11:35pm



Jessica Goff We have, if the cops don't do something it's damn likely my husband will...

Like · 🍊 3 · January 29 at 11:37pm



Paul Duran Dam

Like · 🍊 1 · January 29 at 11:35pm



Ashley Roberts I called it in. It's almost midnight and this needs to stop! I am all for [fireworks](#) on the 4th and New Years but not every weekend!

Like · 🍊 4 · January 29 at 11:38pm



Jessica Goff It's out of control at this point, there are small children running around while they are lighting them off. A few people have walked down to talk to them and they don't seem to care.

Like · 🍊 4 · January 29 at 11:42pm



Patricia Lee Weokoluk Not only dogs, but veterans with PTSD! People should defiantly be more considerate of others¹⁰⁰

Like · 🍊 6 · January 29 at 11:59pm



Joel Brownlow 12:10, just heard another.

Like · January 30 at 12:10am



Joel Brownlow 12:10, just heard another.

Like - January 30 at 12:10am



Paul Duran Me too dam

Like - 🍊 1 - January 30 at 12:11am



Vanessa Duran For fuck sakes! I had just fallen asleep! This is getting out of hand. Please stop shooting off the [fireworks](#)...pretty please

Like - 🍊 1 - January 30 at 12:13am - Edited



Jessica Goff Good luck with the begging the whole street has been and they don't care.

Like - January 30 at 12:13am



Vanessa Duran Thanks, Jessica Goff, for trying to get them to stop. Apparently the cop visit didn't do anything to deter it. Sucks because I'm so very tired 😞

Like - January 30 at 12:15am



Jessica Goff They are getting arrested now!!!

Like - 🍊 2 - January 30 at 12:15am



Vanessa Duran Hopefully, now we can all get some much needed rest.

Like - January 30 at 12:17am



Jessica Goff Yeah they just let another one off, waiting on cops round three... But now they are fighting amongst each other

Like - 🍊 3 - January 30 at 12:12am



Joel Brownlow Good, let them beat the hell out of each other, maybe they'll hey distracted and forget they have those fucking [fireworks](#).

Like - 🍊 1 - January 30 at 12:13am



Jessica Goff Woohoo! Cop busted one as they lit that last one off!!

Like - 🍊 3 - January 30 at 12:15am



Vanessa Duran Well that was a short reprieve...



Joel Brownlow 24 minutes by my count

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:34am



Vanessa Duran You are correct

Like - January 30 at 12:35am



Joel Brownlow You'd think after one of them being busted, they might stop

Like - January 30 at 12:35am - Edited



Vanessa Duran You would think! But I guess they really don't give a crap

Like - January 30 at 12:36am



Jaime Kelly Zellhuber Unfortunately, I think they are to intoxicated to care.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:40am



Jessica Goff Basically the cops come, they leave, they shoot another firework off, the cops come, someone arrested, cops leave, shoot another firework off... It's a crappy cycle that we are stuck in. And now my 4y/o is awake 😡😡

Like - January 30 at 12:43am



Joel Brownlow So in theory, we could keep calling them in until everyone is taken in.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:44am



Jessica Goff Pretty much, that's my plan. They woke my kid up I'm beyond livid pissed off. I was irritated before but now I'm calling until they all either stop or go away in new bracelets.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:45am



Joel Brownlow I'm surprised this hasn't happened yet, I hear these fireworks a couple times every week, always coming from the same area.

How has nothing been done yet?

Like - January 30 at 12:46am



Jessica Goff Not sure this is the first its been this bad not on a holiday.

Like - January 30 at 12:50am



James Shipley Just curious, and not suggesting that lighting off fireworks this late is acceptable, but wondering how many of you who would personally go over armed to confront and kidnap someone over a noise complaint? Because that's what you're asking someone to do on your behalf. I'm not just talking about taking the personal risk of doing so, but who actually considers that a moral solution to the problem?

Like - 2 - January 30 at 12:46am



Joel Brownlow It isn't kidnapping, its a legitimate complaint.

Like - 3 - January 30 at 12:47am



Jessica Goff We've tried to be polite and they are being assholes. If that's what it takes then fine, they've been given warnings and refuse to comply and mortar rounds the size they are using are illegal. The police have even tried to be polite and give a verbal warning, so how much is too much before you have to go the harsh route to make those comply with the law.

Like - 4 - January 30 at 12:50am



James Shipley I think you're missing my point. If you personally went over and did what you want JPD to do, namely for a few guys to go over armed and tell the people to stop shooting off fireworks and then to forcibly take them away and lock them up if they refuse, what would you call that?

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:52am

"Vigilantism"



Joel Brownlow I'd call it enforcing the laws we have set down. The fireworks they're using are illegally large, and fireworks in general are banned with the exception of a couple days a year. That, and it sounds like a damn .45 going off outside my window every 15 minutes, nobody wants to hear that.

Like - 4 - January 30 at 12:53am



Jessica Goff Doing what needs to be done, I understand what you are trying to say but at what point do you sit idly by and allow one



Jessica Goff Doing what needs to be done, I understand what you are trying to say but at what point do you sit idly by and allow one house to disrupt and entire neighborhood? How long do you let your child cry in fear over and over, or the spouse with ptsd who's deployed too many times tense and flinch at every single firework that goes off. I'm sorry that's unacceptable, I was fine with a few before 10pm but this is beyond out of control. Did I mention they are drunk and fighting and playing with explosives!

Like - 5 - January 30 at 12:56am



Joel Brownlow This isn't just one neighborhood. I'm in valley boulevard and my friend in Montana creek hears them as well. They echo quite far off the mountains.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 12:59am



James Shipley If you would feel personally justified in doing what you're asking others to do for you, then more power to you and I applaud your moral consistency. If locking someone up would feel too extreme a personal solution to you, but you feel it's different somehow if others act on your behalf, maybe don't ask others to do what you would feel is wrong yourself. Hope the fireworks stop soon and everyone gets some rest though.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 1:05am



Jessica Goff If I held a badge and was a police officer of any kind yes I would do this without a second thought. I would do this if I would not be arrested for kidnapping by bringing them into custody. I would not ask an officer to do something if I did not absolutely feel it was necessary. I also attempted to do this without anyone being detained to start with, they choose to light a firework off in front of the police and continue to be a disruption to everyone. I'm also one of many who have called them in. It didn't even have to come to people being arrested, they made a choice after a verbal warning to continue and they are adults they know the risk they chose to take by not heading the warnings.

This person does not understand the concept of a police force



Jaime Kelly Zellhuber James, would you feel secure or comfortable with a group of very intoxicated people shooting flammable materials over your house, while they are also fighting with each other in the street?

I agree, this is a significant waste of police resources, but not by the families asking for relief, they tolerated the noise and disruption for hours before calling JPD. The blame here lies in the people unwilling to follow the laws, requiring JPD to come out five different times. Why should a neighborhood feel held hostage and sit back and do nothing?

I wouldn't ever go armed to kidnap anyone. First of all, I'm not in law enforcement, second, JPD gave multiple warnings before arresting any individuals.

It seems completely reasonable to expect law enforcement officers to enforce the laws. I'd applaud them tonight. When I saw people outside my house I stepped outside and could hear the foul mouthed way the officers were being treated.

In terms of the personal risk, asking law enforcement for assistance when talking didn't work seems to be the safest solution. In terms of the moral solution, neighbors tried to talk to them and JPD tried to talk to them, issued warnings. The offenders knew exactly what would happen if they chose to continue. I see nothing immoral about expecting people to follow the laws. While the people affected aren't victims in that they were not assaulted, and you may not have meant to sound this way, but your comment does come across to me as blaming the victims for reporting a crime.



Susan Walker James Shipley Arrest. For breaking the law.

Like - January 31 at 9:17am



Twyla Eyre Two back to back just now... This is getting OLD!

Like - January 30 at 12:47am



Jan Mays Cops just went down Threadneedle. Hope this shit stops!

Like - January 30 at 12:48am



Vanessa Duran I hope so too, Jan 😞

Like - January 30 at 12:50am - Edited



Jan Mays Shit startled me and keeps waking up my grandson.. 😡

Like - January 30 at 12:51am



Jessica Goff 3 police vehicles and 6 officers are there! Sleep will be on the way.

Like - January 30 at 1:14am



Joel Brownlow Just called them in again.

The nice dispatch lady said they've seen them, and they're trying to get as many names and phone numbers as they can so it goes further than a "hey, knock it off"

Like - January 30 at 12:51am



Megan Nicole Hawkins Well... it keeps making my child(2) get up and go to the window... after I get him in bed because he doesn't understand what is going on. Which means my 8 months pregnant self has to get up out of bed after getting comfortable (impossible) to bring my child back to bed, as well as listen to my dog whine because they scare him.. how about people learn to be considerate. I expect them in July but not damn near February.

Like - January 30 at 12:51am



Jessica Goff Everyone call in!! It's the cross of Threadneedle and Trafalgar Ave!!!

Like - January 30 at 12:53am



Jan Mays Already did before I saw the cops head down the street. This has been ongoing for several hours.

Like - January 30 at 12:56am



Tia Jo San Miguel Disturbing the peace, also known as breach of the peace, is a criminal offense that occurs when a person engages in some form of disorderly conduct, such as fighting or threatening to fight in public, causing excessively loud noise, by shouting, playing loud music, or even allowing a dog to bark for prolonged periods of time. When a person's words or conduct jeopardizes others right to peace and tranquility, he or she may be charged with disturbing the peace.

Disturbing the peace laws are covered by state or local ordinances. While disturbing the peace is not considered a serious criminal offense, it is an offense punishable by jail time, monetary fine, or both.

What Constitutes Disturbing the Peace?

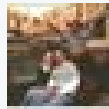
Disturbing the peace laws vary from state to state. Generally, disturbing the peace refers to words or conduct that compromises the safety, health, morals or overall peace and quiet of the public.

Disturbing the peace charges cover a variety of conduct and often falls under the broader "catch-all" category of disorderly conduct.

Some examples of disorderly conduct include:

- Fighting or challenging someone to fight in a public place
- Using offensive words in a public place likely to incite violence
- Shouting in a public place intending to incite violence or unlawful activity
- Bullying a student on or near school grounds
- Knocking loudly on hotel doors of sleeping guests with the purpose of annoying them
- Holding an unlawful public assembly
- Shouting profanities out of a car window in front of a person's home over an extended period of time
- Allowing excessive dog barking in a residential area, and
- Intentionally playing loud music during the night that continues, even after a fair warning.

In most states, the person's conduct must have been on purpose (willful) or with bad intent (malicious). It is not enough that a person engaged in conduct that merely annoyed, harassed, or embarrassed another person. If fighting



Tia Jo San Miguel Disturbing the peace, is a criminal offense that occurs when a p

In most states, the person's conduct must have been on purpose (willful) or with bad intent (malicious). It is not enough that a person engaged in conduct that merely annoyed, harassed, or embarrassed another person. If fighting was involved, it must have been unlawful, and not in self-defense or to protect someone.

To determine guilt, a court will look at the particular circumstances of each case. Some of the factors a judge may consider include the location, time, place, words, actions, and the person spoken to or touched (for example, a police officer, teacher, student, relative or passerby).

Common actions that do not constitute disturbing the peace may include:

- Engaging in horseplay;
- Simply embarrassing someone;
- Merely annoying someone;
- Accidentally bumping into someone;
- Giving someone a gesture such as the middle finger, (sometimes even against a police officer).

However, if a person's non-violent actions are likely to incite violence or public disorder, criminal liability may apply.

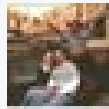
Purpose of the Law

Disturbing the peace is a law against public disorder and chaos. Laws against disorderly conduct, such as disturbing the peace, exist to prevent people from disturbing the peace of others while they are tending to their daily business and personal affairs.

Disturbing the peace may be charged as part of the broader catch-all crime of disorderly conduct, which includes many other types of public disturbances, or it may be charged separately, based on the factors listed above and the laws of the particular state.

Penalties and Punishment

Disturbing the peace is a misdemeanor criminal offense. A person charged with disturbing the peace may face jail time of up to 90 days, fines up to \$400, or both. In many instances, disturbing the peace is a first criminal offense and, if so, a person may avoid jail time altogether if convicted.



Tia Jo San Miguel Disturbing the peace,
is a criminal offense that occurs when a p

Your Rights as a Victim

If you, or someone you know, believe that you are the victim of disorderly conduct or loud and excessive noise or disruption, it is important to know what you can do to minimize or stop the harm your are experiencing.

What Can You Do?

Ask Them to Stop the Behavior

If the perpetrator is a neighbor or person you know, and you do not feel physically threatened or in potential harm, you might explain that their conduct is problematic and ask him or her to stop the behavior. Should the situation escalate, you should remove yourself immediately.

Contact the Police

If the harm continues, or if there is imminent danger (such as fighting) you may want to contact the police and explain the situation to them. A person who disrupts the peace is often given a fair warning by police. In most cases, police involvement may stop the disruptive behavior altogether.

Contact a Lawyer

Finally, if none of the above actions help your situation, it may be necessary to contact an attorney. In addition to violating criminal laws against disturbing the peace, disruptive behavior may violate nuisance laws, in which case, filing a lawsuit against the perpetrator might help bring an end the disruptive behavior.

- See more at: <http://criminal.findlaw.com/.../disturbing-the-peace.html...>

Disturbing the Peace - FindLaw

Disturbing the peace, also known as breach of the peace, is a criminal offense that occurs when a person engages in some form of disorderly conduct, such as fighting

CRIMINAL.FINDLAW.COM

Like · 3 · January 30 at 12:56am



James Shipley



James Shipley



Like - 1 - January 30 at 3:07am



Hilary Rehfield-Green Prepare yourselves for 2/7... I'm sure there will be many fireworks during Super Bowl.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 8:57am



Jessica Goff I'm all for a little celebrating but this went from about 730pm to 1am. And I'm prepared for the Super Bowl fireworks, they don't usually last more than an hour which doesn't bother me. It was the amount of time and lack of disregard for the the whole neighborhood. Many tried to peacefully ask them to stop and they not so peacefully told them where to shove it.

Like - 1 - January 30 at 1:14pm



Randy Brown Freedom is the worst.

Like - January 30 at 1:50pm



Jimbo Hannon And it appears this fireworks session lead to someone losing their freedom... teehee.



Like - 10 - January 30 at 7:16pm



Rhyan Nydam There's a curfew for how loud you can be by a certain time... isn't there? If they're doing it past midnight, and are ignoring any warning given... then yes. I say lock em up for the night. They're warned, talked to, complained about (because well... it's past midnight)... and continue it. It's not just like "omg. 3 fireworks went off at its 10pm"..... it's "omg this has been going nonstop for a good 3 hours and they're being a-holes about it and are even ignoring the police". So yes. I'd say lock em up.

Like - 4 - January 31 at 10:06am

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

A series of comments about fireworks in residential neighborhoods, featuring (with 1 exception) actual Facebook posts from Juneau residents.

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

"I understand that there are people/animals that get upset. But throwing a hissy fit and ruining the fun for the other 90% of the population is a pretty sucky thing to do."

[The other 90% does not use consumer fireworks. Actually, make that the other 99.9%]



"Why the hell do you insist on screwing EVERYONE else because of one or two jerks?"

[EVERYONE else does not use fireworks. Most people consider them hazardous. And speaking of jerks...]



"What about others and their needs? What if they have a mental illness that can only be relieved by blowing up a firework here or there?!"

[Yes, putting fire and gunpowder into the hands of the mentally ill is deemed excellent therapy – we should probably give them assault rifles and ammo for stress relief, too.]



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.



"Your dog is shaking because you didn't expose it to enough loud noises when it was growing up."

[You seem to be deficient in empathy. Maybe your parents didn't raise you right.]



*"Were you physically harmed? Was there damage to your property?
Was the fireworks (mild class explosives) after 10pm and lasting more than 20 mins?"*

[Where did you pull those "rules" from?

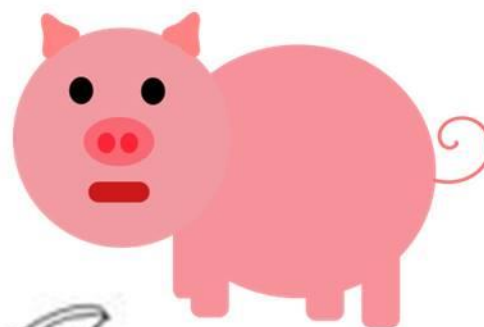
- Actually, it was my little kid who got burned. But those National Fire Protection Association people are really just a bunch of scaredy-cats about their statistics.
- The burned siding near the gutter where the bottle rocket got stuck will only cost about \$1500 to repair, and we didn't lose the house, so it's all good.
- Does it ever occur to you that you don't know what you're talking about?]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

*"Damn, y'all have a stick
somewhere deep where it
doesn't belong."*

[Yep, if anyone doesn't like
the same things you like,
there must be something
wrong with them, and so
you can feel free to be
boorish and insulting.]



*"It's my property, I can
do what I want on it."*

[Can I use that excuse for
my meth lab?

Fireworks noise and
burning debris cross
property lines. If your
property were enclosed
in a gigantic Plexiglas
cube, thus preventing
noise and debris from
your fireworks impinging
on neighboring
properties, your excuse
would of course make
perfect sense.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

"I hope you all can resolve it peacefully without imposing on everyone else's right to light them off."

[Everyone else actually thinks they have a right to be safe from hazardous explosives and alarming noise.]



"Pretty soon there won't be anything left for anyone to do. No one can go out and have fun. No wonder everyone stays in their house and shoots up heroin."

[Juneau is indeed the equivalent of an inner city slum hellhole when it comes to opportunities for outdoor recreation, cultural pursuits, education, and volunteerism. If one cannot use fireworks, the only alternative is, of course, heroin. Because oxy is harder to get nowadays.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.



Ordinance 42.20.095
Disturbing the peace

“Specifically because of the word ‘unreasonable’ being used. That allows the noise complaint to be open to debate and interpretation. As what YOU consider unreasonable vs what I consider unreasonable could differ greatly.”

[Anyone who thinks it’s “reasonable” to frighten little kids, awaken everyone within a mile around, torment dogs, and send flaming debris onto someone else’s property is not exactly an example of good judgment and responsible citizenship . . . or even common courtesy. No matter how rational they imagine themselves to be.]

Your Reasonable Meter appears to need re-calibration, you might want to get it checked right away.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.



"Maybe homes in which include individuals with special needs can prove the conditions with paperwork to the city to get their area labeled as a "quiet neighborhood" of some sort."

[Our current disturbing peace ordinance includes conditions under which noise would disturb "a reasonable person." Not a disabled person. Not someone with "special needs." Just an ordinary, everyday, reasonable person.

No one should have to prove medical disability in order to obtain ordinary public protection from disturbance and nuisance.

"Reasonable people" are not the ones setting off fireworks and disturbing the peace. Rationalizing excuses for discourteous behavior is not the same thing as being reasonable.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

Vets with PTSD, No. 1 in a Series of 3
[Featuring actual Facebook posts]

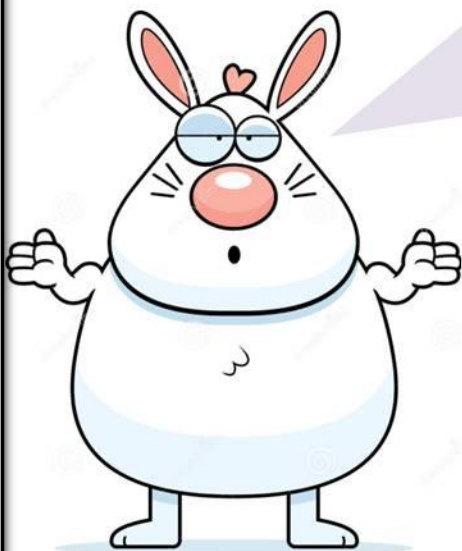
"PTSD sufferers should just get treatment and try to live with discourteous neighbors."

[Yes indeed, it makes a lot of sense for those suffering from PTSD to spend large amounts of money and time getting treatment and therapy to provide relief.

How stupid of them to not have already done that. Tch!

So much more sensible and practical than simply taking your fireworks toys elsewhere to set them off.

After all, it isn't up to society to make adjustments to lessen the impacts of disabilities upon the unfortunate, even if they were wounded defending the rest of us.]



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

Vets with PTSD, No. 2 in a Series of 3
[Featuring actual Facebook posts]



"This subject has come up many times. And I've never seen a vet complain about it. Only those hiding behind a vet while shouting PTSD. Each vet that I've seen comment about it has told us to hang on to our freedoms because they didn't become a vet to see them taken away for us."

[Has only one veteran acquaintance, actually. Statisticians refer to this as "sampling error."]

There are, of course, many veterans who believe in freedom and don't complain about their PTSD but for whom fireworks barrages are difficult to endure.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

Vets with PTSD, No. 3 in a Series of 3
[Featuring actual Facebook posts]



"My neighbor is a veteran and he struggles when our neighbors shoot off large fireworks and guns. He deals with it on the 4th and New Years but when it happens randomly, and goes on for a length of time, they tried asking the neighbors to limit it and were told to screw off."

"At what point do you sit idly by and allow one house to disrupt an entire neighborhood? How long do you let your child cry in fear over and over, or the spouse with PTSD who's deployed too many times tense and flinch at every single firework that goes off?"



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

"Will be celebrating the 4th of July with fireworks on [local cul de sac]. I've noticed the signs asking me to be courteous. Please accept this announcement as my courtesy."

[Well that's nice. But why are your fireworks toys so darned important that you antagonize your neighbors and ruin their holiday by forcing them to participate in your noisy "celebration" whether they want to or not? Too much effort to pack up the family & take the show elsewhere, or buy quieter fireworks for celebrating the 4th at home? Inconceivable to simply not shoot off loud mortar rounds & rockets in a residential neighborhood at 11pm?]



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

“Why don’t you folks go and talk collectively to that one problem neighbor?”

Or hook up your garden hoses and drag them over to Neighbor Bob’s to put out his fireworks.

Go in numbers! Have enough backbone to stand up and protect yourselves.

If Neighbor Bob is confrontational, pack guns, as is your right. So when he confronts your trespass upon his property with his shotgun and rock salt, you can fire back.

[Sure, you can borrow my hose. I need to go make some popcorn and get out my lawn chair...]

Note: Based upon actual quotes, we did not make this up.



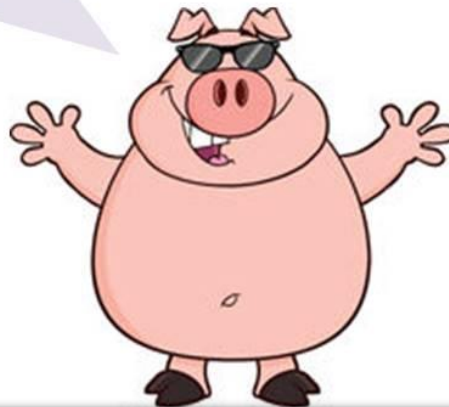
NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

"Fireworks are legal. You'll just have to suck it up."

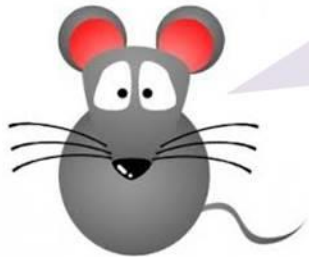
[Just who do you think you are to dictate to me? Nobody died and left you boss. What makes you think it's OK to alarm and disturb everyone for a mile around with the sounds of gunfire and explosions?

Possession of consumer fireworks is allowed by the fire code, but noise disturbing the peace is a violation and will earn you a \$300 ticket. So suck on that.]



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.



"Simply saying that by comparison of where we used to live it doesn't seem much to me.

I agree they are a nuisance and it is always bad to have upset dogs and babies. I had/have both so I can relate."

[So what? Are you implying that other people should be more tolerant, like you, an example to us all? Have you considered that others prefer the quiet enjoyment of their property and homes, and don't want their neighborhood to deteriorate into the kind of place you used to live?]



"Unfortunately even with signs saying not to do something, there are people who's mindset is 'you can't tell me what to do' or 'you aren't the boss of me.'"

[True. Signs don't work. This is a \$300 citation. Cash only.]

NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

“Calling JPD is absolutely pointless, they have much more important things to be doing than dealing with your complaint about a couple fireworks.”

[That’s why we have no disturbing the peace, malicious mischief, litter laws, or animal ordinances.

Now that we’ve agreed that petty violations are an imposition on our overworked police, I know you won’t call in a complaint about my dog barking for hours whenever I have to put him outside. And I’ll be sure to dump a pickup load of trash and grass cuttings and a mattress over a road embankment near you, now that I know you won’t call the cops.]



“The Assembly has more important things to address.”

[Good to know you think that ongoing disturbances in my neighborhood are trivial and unimportant.

Now I know whom *not* to vote for in the next election.]



NEIGHBORHOOD WILDLIFE

Get out the binoculars and see how many critters you can spot nearby.
Or sometimes you can tell by their calls.

"Confounded humans! Don't they know how to be quiet?"

[Your human neighbors aren't the only ones who think you're disturbing the peace with your fireworks. Fortunately these human neighbors also have phones & know how to use them: **call JPD 586-0600 to file a noise complaint.**]



FIREWORKS IN JUNEAU

Prohibited in CBJ parks

Noise

Safety – missiles, burns

To prevent spread of current fireworks disturbances from neighborhoods to parks

Parks are surrounded by residential neighborhoods

Fireworks disturbances should not be allowed to deter park users

Coordination with state and Forest Service no-fireworks policy

Less expensive than managed use

Modification of the existing Municipal Code for Parks & Recreation under 67.01.090 - Prohibited uses – to include fireworks as prohibited missiles.

New Ordinance for Managed Use

Where? Non-residential?

When?

4th of July only?

Specific other holiday(s)

Specific Hours?

Receptions and parties?

Hours & duration?

Type of fireworks?

Loud aerial mortar shells & rockets?

Only quieter low-aerial fireworks such as certain fountains & cakes, choreographed displays?

Who ensures safety procedures & litter cleanup?

Permitting system? JPD or CCF/R enforcement?

Budget?

Liability?

Status Quo

Increasing public outrage:
No barking Dogs?
No bad Mufflers?
No boom cars & loud music?
But booming fireworks disturbances lasting for hours are somehow OK?

Enforcement impractical

Juneau's Noise Ordinance

42.20.095 Disturbing the peace.

- (a) Policy. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the health, welfare and safety of the City and Borough's residents by regulating the time, place, and manner of unreasonable noise. It is the intent of this section to secure the health, safety, comfort, convenience, and peaceful enjoyment of all public places, such as public streets and public parks, as well as the City and Borough's residents' homes, by prohibiting unreasonable noise.
- (b) General.
 - (1) It is unlawful for any person to make or continue, or cause or permit to be made or continued, any unreasonable noise
 - (2) As used in this section, "unreasonable noise" means



noise that unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, health, peace, or safety of a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities in the vicinity.

The factors which will be considered in determining whether a noise is unreasonable will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Noise Ordinance 13 Points

42.20.095 Disturbing the peace.

- (A) The volume of noise;
- (B) The intensity of the noise;
- (C) Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual;
- (D) Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;
- (E) The volume and intensity of the background noise, if any;
- (F) The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities;
- (G) The nature and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;
- (H) The density of the inhabitation of the area within which the noise emanates;
- (I) The time of the day or night the noise occurs;
- (J) The duration of the noise;
- (K) Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent or constant;
- (L) Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or noncommercial activity; and
- (M) Whether the noise contains pure tones.

**Consumer Fireworks are allowed
under the Fire Code.
Disturbing the Peace Is NOT**



The Fire Code addresses safety hazards
such as flammability,
explosiveness, shrapnel.



**It does *not* deal with
Malicious Mischief, Reckless
Endangerment, or Disturbing the Peace**

241 Fireworks Complaints, Zero Fireworks Citations

Statistics requests to JPD for noise disturbing the peace citations
since the Jan 2014 Noise Ordinance

Bad muffler?



Barking dog?



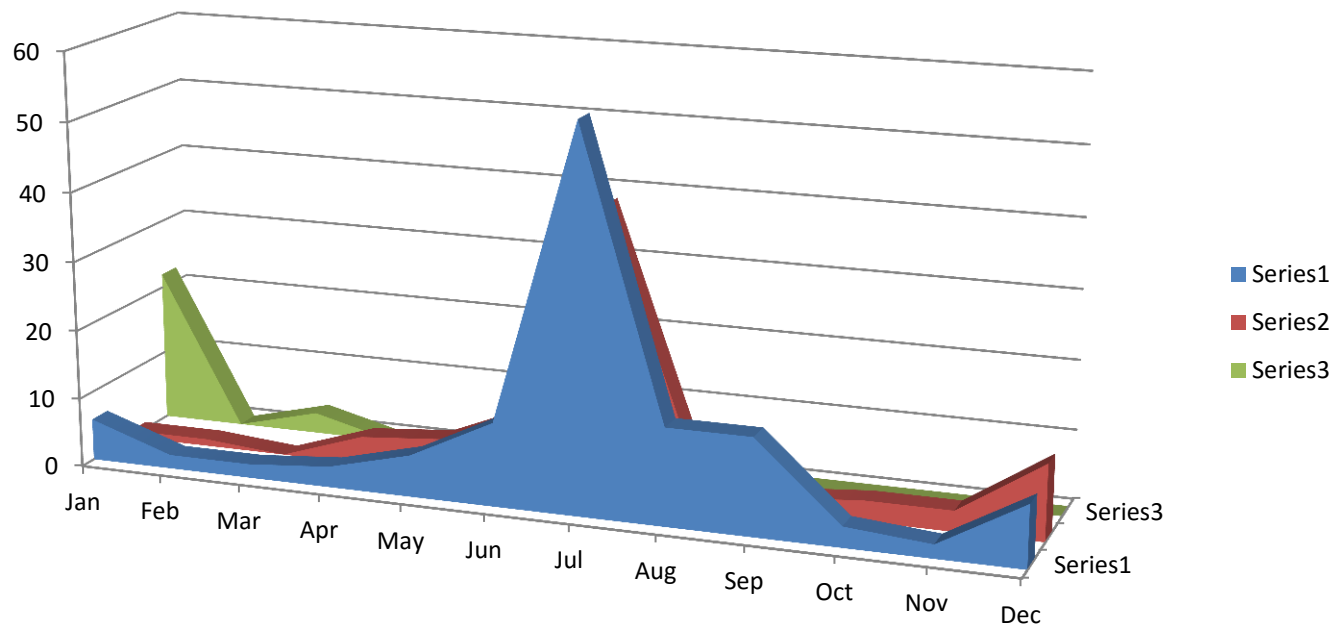
Fireworks?



Noise Citations

25

13AAC 04.215			
JUNZE000002450038	03/29/2014 09:54:00	EGAN AT MCNUGGET	EXHAUST-NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000002890038	05/14/2014 15:10:00	EGAN DR // CHANNEL DR	EXHAUST-NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003230049	04/06/2015 11:21:00	THREADNEEDLE	EXHAUST-NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003580049	08/07/2015 21:43:00	GLACIER AT ALKE BAY	EXHAUST-NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
13AAC 04.215(a)-(b)			
JUNZE000002590035	02/10/2014 20:58:00	RIVERSIDE/ROTARY	EQUIPMENT VIOLATION : EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000002520034	01/06/2015 08:36:00	COPE PARK	EQUIPMENT VIOLATION : EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003540042	01/20/2015 12:58:00	EGAN AT LOOP	EQUIPMENT VIOLATION : EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003050049	03/23/2015 18:29:00	GLACIER NEAR BELARDI	EQUIPMENT VIOLATION : EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
AS 11.61.110(A)(1)			
JUNZP00392319	08/12/2015 21:55:00	POCKET PARK	DISORDERLY CONDUCT (DC - UNREASONABLY LOUD NOISE AFFECTING ANC
AS 11.61.110(A)(2)			
JUNZP00335041	05/14/2014 02:43:00	S FRANKLIN/FRONT ST	DISORDERLY CONDUCT
CBJ 08.45.010 (A)(1)			
JUNZP00331177	07/06/2014 16:00:00	TWISTED FISH PARKING LOT	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE
JUNZP00393190	02/11/2015 12:15:00	231 GASTINEAU	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE (ANI
JUNZP00393188	02/11/2015 12:15:00	231 GASTINEAU	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE (ANI
JUNZP00393035	05/13/2015 09:30:00	THREADNEEDLE STREET	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE (ANI
JUNZP00393034	05/13/2015 09:30:00	THREADNEEDLE STREET	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE (ANI
JUNZP00409567	02/29/2016 14:30:00	324 HIGHLAND DR	OBJECTIONABLE ANIMAL - DISTURBING NEIGHBORHOOD WITH NOISE (ANI
CBJ 72.04.215			
JUNZE000002990038	05/19/2014 20:53:00	GLACIER AT WALMART	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003120038	05/26/2014 15:07:00	EGAN AT NORWAY POINT	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003110038	05/26/2014 07:38:00	EGAN AT CHANNEL DRIVE	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000003730041	05/30/2014 12:20:00	CAPITAL AVE/9TH ST	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000002150034	08/15/2014 02:07:00	SEWARD AND 3RD	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
june000003130036	10/10/2014 23:19:00	GLACIER/TROUT STREET	MOTORCYCLE - ALTERED EXHAUST
JUNZE000003510046	06/13/2015 23:47:00	LOOP/DREDGE LAKE	MOTORCYCLE - ALTERED EXHAUST
JUNZE000005310036	03/01/2016 10:53:00	EGAN AT JOHS	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE
JUNZE000005330036	03/01/2016 13:34:00	EGAN AT TWIN LAKES	EXHAUST NOISE/EXCESSIVE SMOKE



266 responses – 241 incidents + 25 multiple response categories such as “Information Only, Officer Advised”

- 140 responses in 2014,
- 100 in 2015,
- 26 through mid-March 2016

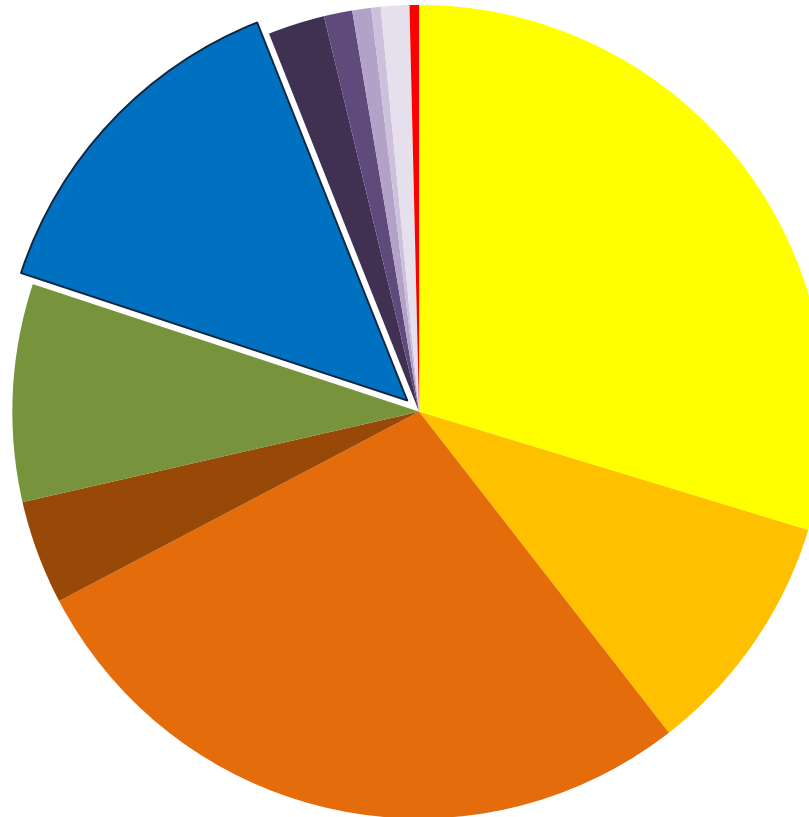
4th of July and New year’s spikes,
episodes for Memorial Day and Christmas in 2014, January 2016,
extended use Aug-Sep of 2014.

- **“Information Only” Response**

“Information Only” likely means that officers are on priority calls and the person being dispatched just wants the address and other specifics kept somewhat handy if there are additional calls or the same area becomes an on-going problem. Information Only usually creates a paper trail for later use, even if officers are on something else at the time of the call.

- **“Officer Advised” Response**

Officer Advised means that Dispatch advised an officer. Sometimes the officer thinks they may make it by but if calls keep coming in and hours pass, dispatch may clear the call from the screen without the officer coding it. It is also possible officers were on other calls and it’s a place like a beach, where a paper trail is not particularly helpful.



- Information Only
- Officer Advised
- Unable to Locate
- Gone On Arrival
- Service Rendered
- Verbal Warning
- No Action Poss/Necc
- Left On Request
- No Data
- Peace Restored
- Call Cancelled
- Arrest Made

- Two-thirds of data indicates inability to respond, circumstances that prevent action.
- “Service rendered” can duplicate other responses (“Service Rendered, Information Only”)
- No citations issued, 1 arrest; verbal warning seems to be likeliest enforcement action.

What About That January 29 Incident?

The Facebook thread at Juneau Community Concern documents, as it was happening, the neighborhood reaction to fireworks disturbance to the peace at a drunken party.

What About That January 29 Incident?

- **Disturbance lasted 6 hours, from 7pm to 1am**
- **Over 15 people called JPD Dispatch**
- **Residents compared notes on Facebook to home in on the source of the blasts**
- **Explosions heard over a mile away**
- **Multiple JPD visits**
- **An arrest after midnight**
- **Fireworks still ongoing until 1 a.m.**

What About That January 29 Incident?

“at what point do you sit idly by and allow one house to disrupt and entire neighborhood? How long do you let your child cry in fear over and over, or the spouse with ptsd who's deployed too many times tense and flinch at every single firework that goes off.”

What About That January 29 Incident?

“Basically the cops come, they leave, they shoot another firework off, the cops come, someone arrested, cops leave, shoot another firework off... It's a crappy cycle that we are stuck in. And now my 4y/o is awake.”

12:43 am.

What About That January 29 Incident?

Why was there no prosecution after the arrest?

“The decline in oil prices has caused a funding crisis in State government. This means that ... I have been forced to cut my staff in half, and prosecute far fewer cases.

As a result, for the first time in my career, we have no choice but to marshal our limited resources on only our strongest and most serious cases.

This is a great source of personal and professional frustration for me: I am a career prosecutor, and strongly subscribe to the theory that the enforcement of seemingly minor offenses pays dividends in preventing more serious offenses.

In my experience noise violations are exactly the kind of crime that needs to be prosecuted.”

What About That January 29 Incident?

Why was there no prosecution after the arrest?

“In this particular case, the hostess of the party where the fireworks were being discharged was arrested – placed in handcuffs, taken into custody, booked and released. Frankly I was a little surprised by that - most B misdemeanors are charged by citation, particularly when committed by a woman in her forties with no criminal record. I think the arrest was appropriate but absolutely see it creating juror sympathy issues. Moreover (at least based upon the police reports we were provided) she was charged despite the fact that she may not have been the one actually discharging the fireworks. There are very few circumstances in the criminal law where one can be vicariously liable for the acts of another. In short, given the information we were provided and the resources required in charging and trying the case, we declined it.”

--James T. Scott, District Attorney

Why Isn't JPD Writing Tickets?

1. **Difficulty in locating the occurrence?** – Those who call Dispatch with a complaint often do not know the address of the household setting off fireworks, or even which street. Fireworks often do not go on for hours, and may have stopped before an officer can arrive.
2. **Difficulty in locating the perpetrators?**– People often scatter at the approach of JPD
3. **Difficulty in identifying the perpetrator?** - Who, when a patrol officer arrives at a party group, is likely to step up and admit to being the one responsible for actually setting off the fireworks?
4. **Reluctance to issue a \$300 ticket?** – This is a pretty stiff fine, and officers may not wish to be perceived as persecutors of those who are just trying to have fun (police have feelings, too)
5. **Confusing fireworks allowed under Fire Code as also allowing the noise to disturb the peace?** - It is reasonable to be disturbed by neighborhood fireworks explosions, but Dispatch has responded to noise complaints, “But fireworks are legal!” (which is irrelevant).
6. **Lack of a history as to which offenses have already received a verbal warning?** – Are repeat offenders not ticketed because an officer is unaware of a prior warning and Dispatch cannot provide this info?
7. **Responses required for more serious calls?** – Noise complaints must be sidelined as available officers must respond to domestic violence, theft, traffic accidents, assault, etc.

Why Isn't JPD Writing Tickets? How to Fix?

- A. **Educate Dispatch & officers about our noise ordinance** - Fireworks in a neighborhood is a noise violation as well as a public safety hazard to children, property, and pets. It's not just little bottle rockets and crackers – people are also using big, whistling rockets and mortar shells. Use can last for half an hour, many hours, and at random non-holiday occasions.
- B. **Educate the public that the noise ordinance can be invoked to control disturbing fireworks abuse** – Residents might be reluctant to call JPD, unaware that they *can* call JPD, or believe that a call to JPD is futile.
- C. **Officers get ruthless in handing out disturbing the peace tickets, no more verbal warnings?** If a complaint has been received, one gets a ticket just as if one had been caught doing 95mph on Egan
- D. **Enable Dispatch to identify locations that have received prior complaints and/or warnings?**
- E. **Community Service follow-up in problem locations? Coordination with neighborhood organizations?**
- F. **Establish a permitting system, similar to open burning permits, in order to identify location and responsible person when complaints are received?**
- G. **Request Assembly to ban fireworks in residential zones and parks?**

Will this be the last Fourth of July fireworks are allowed in city parks?

Parks and Rec to hear firework-prohibition proposal in September

Posted: July 3, 2016 - 12:03am

By [SAM DeGRAVE](#)

JUNEAU EMPIRE

Come tonight, bottle rockets, mortars, roman candles and fireworks of other forms and fashions will light the sky above Savikko Park in Douglas, one of the most popular spots for Juneau residents to scratch their pyrotechnic itch. The whizzes and screams of firecrackers, punctuated by loud bangs and showers of sparks will likely be observable in other parks throughout the city, too.

But this may not be the case come next Fourth of July if one group of Juneau residents has its way.

Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks, a group of about 100 people fed up with the use of fireworks in public parks, is requesting a prohibition of fireworks from all city-owned parks.

"This is an effort to prevent the spread of fireworks abuse from neighborhoods into parks," said Chris Prussing, a Thane Road resident and the unofficial spokesperson for the group.

Fireworks are currently permitted on all city land, a fact that Prussing said didn't become problematic until about five years ago when, due to a change in regulations, fireworks that used to be off-limits to most people became legal to possess and discharge. These fireworks — previously reserved exclusively for professional displays — include mortars, which pack a much larger punch than the average bottle rocket.

Prussing's group is not "anti-fireworks," she said. In fact, she plans to shoot off some fireworks of her own in celebration of Independence Day. It's the larger, formerly display-grade fireworks that she and the other members of Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks said crossed the line.

"A lot of these things are dangerous if misused," Prussing said. "Sure, they're appealing. They're the ones with the big loud bangs and the colors, but they're designed to be loud, and people with pets and PTSD are being driven crazy."

The way she and her peers see it, an outright ban on fireworks in city parks is the best way to reign in what they see as an increasingly out-of-control fireworks use.

The group has reached out to the city's Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Duncan about the matter, requesting a year-round prohibition that includes July 3 and 4.

"Celebrating holidays in parks with hazardous and noisy fireworks is no more appropriate than drunken disorderly parties, and an affront and deterrent to other park users," the group wrote to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in a letter dated June 24.

Parks and Rec Director, Kirk Duncan said he will be the person who ultimately has to decide whether to impose the requested ban. He'll be taking public comment from all interested parties at the PRAC's September meeting, which will likely be on Sept. 13. The meeting was originally supposed to take place tomorrow, but Duncan moved it back a couple months to make sure that anybody who might want to attend had enough notice.

"If we're going to do this, I really want to do this well," Duncan told the Empire. "I don't want people to think that we're trying to steamroll them here. I want to make sure we have good public input, good public process."

Fireworks are already prohibited in state and federal parks, and Juneau Residents for Action on Fireworks would like to see city parks adopt similar rules. Kevin Murphy, chief ranger for Southeast Area State Parks, said he thought such a ban would be a good idea, although he recognized he's not in a place to make that call.

"I just think it would be good if the three organizations had similar regulations on fireworks," he said. "People seem to think that parks are a safe haven for fireworks, and I don't know why. It'd certainly be a lot easier if we're all sending the same message: Fireworks are not welcome in our parks."

Murphy said that state parks prohibit fireworks because they are loud, dangerous and a fire hazard — although that's more applicable to drier regions of the state than rainy Southeast, he said.

Though fireworks are illegal in state and federal parks, Murphy said they are still commonly used at places like Eagle Beach. Regulation of the fireworks ban is not easy.

"It's hard to enforce, particularly for us because of staffing," he said. "But that doesn't make fireworks acceptable."

The Juneau Police Department, too, has struggled with enforcement when it comes to fireworks, according to JPD spokesperson Lt. David Campbell. The city may not have laws pertaining to where fireworks can be set off, but it does restrict when they can be discharged.

The city's noise ordinance, which was enacted in 2014, prohibits residents from making "any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise" that annoys their neighbors or makes it difficult to sleep.

Under the ordinance, setting off fireworks within earshot of people who don't want to hear them after 10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 p.m. on weekends is against the law and could result in a citation.

"It sounded like a good idea at the time," Prussing said of the ordinance. "Unfortunately, the practicality of it is turning out to be a problem."

That's because, Campbell said, that police officers "almost need to catch the person in the act" in order to cite somebody for violating the noise ordinance, which isn't easy when it comes to fireworks.

"When the officer gets to the place, it's typically over," Campbell said. "Being able to isolate where it's coming from and who did it, from an investigation point of view, is a difficult thing to do."

Since the noise ordinance was enacted two years ago, the police department has issued about 25 noise-violation citations, according to Prussing who recently requested the data from JPD. None of those citations were for fireworks, even though the department received more than 250 fireworks-related complaints during that time. JPD was unable to provide the data to the Empire by press time, but police spokesperson Erann Kalwara was able to confirm the number of fireworks-related complaints.

Campbell is reasonably confident, however, that JPD would be able to better enforce a fireworks ban in city parks if one were to be issued. Because such a ban could prohibit people from possessing fireworks in a public park, Campbell said that police officers could ask people with fireworks to leave parks or seize the fireworks if need be. JPD has no such authority when it comes to the noise ordinance because it's the use, not possession of fireworks, that is illegal.

Prussing said that complaining about fireworks in Juneau doesn't typically make people popular. In fact, historically complaints about fireworks — and especially attempts to ban them — have been met with explosive opposition, "a torrent of resentment," she called it.

She hopes this won't be the case at the September PRAC meeting, and she has reason to believe that it won't be. So far, the sentiment seems to be running 80 percent in favor of the ban and 20 percent against it, she said.

"The people who are complaining about fireworks are actually reasonable people," she said. "We're your neighbors, and we're nice people."

- Contact reporter Sam DeGrave at 523-2279 or sam.degrave@juneauempire.com.

This is so wrong. Instead of looking at my "right to uninterrupted enjoyment of my home," I'm having to put up with a barrage of insane fireworks noise night after night, day after day.

The 3rd of July the idiots started at 10:30AM - no. that's not a mistake, it was 10:30AM, and went till 1:30 AM of the 4th of July.

My dog refuses to go outside now, because it continues even now. Not a continuous barrage, but sporadic, insane one here, five there, and let's do another three here just for the hell of it.

That's what has happened to her, and me -- this is wrong, wrong, wrong. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE THIS WAY.

And, my dog was medicated.



VALLEY

I live in North Douglas waterside. The fireworks barge is parked in view of our home so we our used to a certain level of preparations and noise as the crew organizes and fired off practice shots.

However, This was THE WORST year ever in re non CBJ fireworks. Commercial grade fireworks blasting off in private yards and places up and down both sides of the channel. Also frightening were the paper Japanese lanterns launched with open flames sailing over cedar homes and into the forest. Not to mention intense smoke and extreme noise starting about 5:30 PM until nearly 12:45 AM. We were barricaded in our home! Could not go out to the beach- too much smoke, noise, and overhead fireworks. It all seemed unusually dangerous as many of the fireworks equaled the CBJ fireworks.

Usually I go down to beach and watch CBJ fireworks. I could not even hear the city fireworks this year as it was so loud around us.

Also there are tons of spent fireworks at Savikko park. Why does the city even bother to spend all that money on fireworks when it is becoming dangerous to attend since unregulated fireworks and bombs are going off everywhere.

DOUGLAS

They should be illegal except for the shows conducted by permit.

Traumatizing pets, veterans with PTSD, and autistic people is not my idea of a good time. In the Flats, 99% of us don't want them going off, but we have a few rude jerks who persist in annoying everyone else. I would like to see them banned in residential areas and city parks, and I don't care if they are not legal anywhere.

I want to be able to get someone cited for disturbing the peace if they are keeping the neighborhood awake "celebrating" whether it's fireworks, loud music, or cars without mufflers.

TOWN

Actually from what I understand one of them is a narc for the cops and could set them off without them doing a thing. And that's not just speculation but general city knowledge, everyone who knows him knows it. One of the other ones would do it in front of JPD and laugh about it. The other one I know for sure would take pictures and video and brag all over social media about it.

So while I respect our officers in general and know of a number really amazing ones. I also know that yes, a number of the idiots who set them off for hours on end in front of everyone could be caught.

I'm sure there are reasons why they are not being pursued. Perhaps as someone else said, they are stretched thin and they're busy saving lives, you know, doing that thing that probably drove them to join in the first place.

But that doesn't stop the fact that they set them off for weeks on end so no one in the neighborhood can sleep, the fact that walls rattle, or the fact that I know about 30 people in the neighborhood who have complained about those 3 people without even a single citation being written.



VALLEY

We have a right to live in peace and quiet and not be subjected to BOMBS going off and making our neighborhood feel like a war zone!!

It's bad enough this happens on the 3rd and 4th, and New Year's Eve, but it happens way before and way after!!

I work damn hard at my job and when I come home I expect to be able to relax and de-stress in my own home! Not be jumping out of my skin because someone wanted to set off a f****ing bomb!

JPD doesn't do a damn thing about protecting MY rights, so yeah, I'm pissed off because people can do whatever the hell they want, make all the noise they want and nothing happens to them.

Yeah sure, I'd take a "chill pill" if I thought it would help, but this complete disregard for those of us that do NOT enjoy firebombs and telling us to stop whining and deal with it, or put ear plugs in, is not right!

WE have a right to peace and quiet in our own homes. Yes, YOU have a right to shoot off firebombs, just take it somewhere where we aren't subjected to the obnoxiously loud noises. Regular fireworks are one thing but damn, those firebombs are NOT necessary!

LEMON CREEK

I am going to tell you that while we tried to enjoy the professional fireworks show last evening, and it was a beautiful one, the folks on the beach below were in fine form.

I know we could have moved...but ... parking.

And we really did see these personal use fireworks as these folks' celebration. It's the 4th, right?

But what they DON'T know from down there is that those things were exploding at street level or just above.

That was last night. I STILL feel like I've had my ears boxed.

DOUGLAS

Seriously, the fireworks in the valley need to stop.

People have jobs to go to early in the mornings, dogs who are deathly afraid of them, and it's just plain rude!!

It's almost 11 pm on the 5th and fireworks are being lit off repetitively.

Needs to stop.



VALLEY

FIREWORKS? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



You're probably thinking of
little crackers & bottle rockets



FIREWORKS? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



Possibly you have not been shelled by big mortar rounds & screamers



"These are my favorite of all the Artillery Shells.

Well crafted, brilliant effects, and a REALLY big bang...

the kind you feel in your chest."



WARNING
SHOTS FLAMING BALLS

DISTURBING?

- **What else do you call loud booming noises resembling gunfire and artillery cannon blasts at any time, any day?**
- **How is it not disturbing to have a terrified pet pee all over the carpet and cower and shiver in a corner for hours?**
- **To have kids awakened and frightened an hour after you finally got them to sleep?**
- **Have your own sleep disrupted by explosions?**
- **Twitch from PTSD every time you hear a blast?**

RECKLESS?

- How else to describe shooting roman candles at one another?
- Letting little kids hold fireworks?
- Drinking while handling explosives?
- Shooting bottle rockets into a crowd?
- Firing mortar rounds over neighbors' rooftops and dropping flaming debris onto their properties?
- Starting a big undergrowth burn alongside a popular trail?

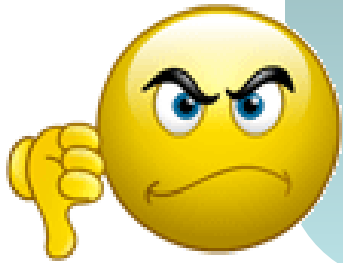
MALICIOUS?

**Is there a better word for
retaliation with
verbal abuse and
vandalism by a
neighbor who has been
requested to desist?**

TERMS USED BY OUR ORDINANCES & JPD

**Disturbing the Peace
Reckless Endangerment
Malicious Mischief**

MAYBE INSTEAD OF
SAYING “FIREWORKS”
WE SHOULD SAY
“BACKYARD BARRAGES”



What Is an “Ad Hominem” Attack?

Ad hominem (Latin for "to the man" or "to the person") short for ***argumentum ad hominem***,

is a logical fallacy in which an argument is rebutted by attacking the character, motive, or other attribute of the person making the argument, or persons associated with the argument, rather than attacking the substance of the argument itself.

Dislike fireworks
Anti fireworks
Nagging
Whining
DRAMA
Have a lead deficiency
Jerks

Freak
Dramatic
Little people
Small issues
NONSENSE
Selfish
Scared

Crap
Move or get over it
Fake
Asinine
Get help
Insulting

Be serious
Characters
Agenda
Idiots
Self-aggrandizing
Offensive
Drama queens
Nut jobs
Stick up your ass

Pretty sad
Dictator
Not rational
Selfishness
Ignore

RIDICULOUS
Minority
Complaints
Waste of time
Typical
Stupid

Zzzzzzz...
Makes no sense
Just want to get your own way
The reality is...
Fantasy land
Fireworks are annoying & nothing more

Fail
Crying
Get a friggin clue
Government micromanaging
Wake up
Be a big girl
Just like to complain

Petty
Silly
Naïve
Annoyance
Blowhard
Move away from Juneau

I bet she gets mad at all her coworkers for wearing deodorant.

--DK

nancies

You are a bunch of liberal tree hugging assholes.

I'd bet most of your supporters feel the bern and want to limit celebrations to hand clapping and banging pots & pans .

It's funny how censorship works with libs. In order to comment I have to "like" your post, well go fuck yourselves with a lit stick of dynamite up each other's asses.

--NH