

SRCC

SOUTH RIVER CITY CITIZENS
AUSTIN TEXAS

South River City Citizens
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Eric Cassady President
Dan Fredine, Vice President
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Mary Friedman, Secretary
Carol Martin, Membership Chair

Austin Public Safety Commission
City Hall
301 W 2nd St.
Austin, TX 78701

January 10, 2020

RE: Request for Review of Fireworks Permitting Process

Dear Mr. Scruggs and Commissioners,

At a recent meeting of **the** general membership, the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association **passed** a motion to express our concerns relating to the City of Austin's fireworks display permitting process and to request a review of the ordinance allowing fireworks displays within the city limits.

Current city regulations allow commercial, religious and other private entities to receive permits *for* fireworks displays within the city. These displays **have** a significant negative impact on quality of life in **nearby** communities, including increased **risk** of fire, danger to pets, higher insurance costs and disruptive noise levels. Advance notification of neighbors, noise control, insurance requirements and general oversight are inadequate.

Additionally, there **are** significant costs **associated** with the permitting process and monitoring of the events themselves, however it has proven difficult to get cost data from the city about these events.

There is a clear need for more stringent regulation.

SRCC requests that the existing ordinance be immediately reviewed and revised to:

1. Ensure that public input **is** allowed before any permit is issued
2. Require that the **affected** public receive adequate advance notification

3. Review the adequacy of the requirement that liability insurance be provided
4. Require that the entity receiving the permit, not the taxpayers, bears the full monetary cost for these events that provide no benefit to the general public.

Now is the ideal time to revise the ordinance. The 2011 Bastrop fire losses and the current increased awareness of wildfire danger described by the Austin City Auditor require that the city take immediate steps to correct this situation before **there** is completely preventable loss of life or property.

Sincerely,

Eric Cassady
President

president@srccatx.org

CC:

Steve Adler, Mayor
Alison Alter, City Council
Joel Baker, Austin Fire Chief
Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Orlando Fernandez, Texas Fire Marshal
Pio Renteria, City Council
Kathie Tovo, City Council