

Proposed Encino Neighborhood Council Motion

Illegal fireworks are a severe and persistent problem in the City of Los Angeles. Recently Motion 21-0318, which was passed by the City council in may 2021 notes “Fireworks continue to be a significant nuisance in the City, especially around Independence Day and New Year’s Eve. Fireworks can cause significant distress to some people, and create an unsafe environment for pets, many of which run away and are either turned into animal shelters or killed or injured running across roadways.”

Displays of fireworks or other pyrotechnics, regardless of whether conducted under permit or not, are indistinguishable in consequence from illegal fireworks if notification of the event is not provided to residents within a substantial radius. This has been occurring repeatedly at locations in Encino, and undoubtedly elsewhere in the City.

Further, there may be issues with whether displays at certain locations should be permitted at all, due to proximity to residences.

Accordingly, The Encino Neighborhood Council asks that the Los Angeles City Council consider introducing the following motion or similar:

In order to address issues regarding permitted pyrotechnic displays, the Los Angeles Fire Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, should examine the feasibility of implementing a program to require, for any permitted pyrotechnic display, advance community notification, a means for the public to easily access any permit issued for a fireworks display or other pyrotechnic event, and that a community liaison be assigned to address inquiries regarding any event. Further, there should be a means for residents to request a public hearing regarding any permit for a fireworks display or other pyrotechnic event.

We ask that the LAFD with the assistance of the City Attorney, report on the feasibility of implementing a program for any fireworks display permittee under LAMC §57.56087.1.2. to compel timely community notification, timely access to permits, designation of a community liaison, and ability to request a public hearing. Further, we ask that Neighborhood Councils representing communities within a 1 mile radius of any intended fireworks display be notified at least 45 days prior to the event to allow sufficient time for hearing public comment and to assist with public notification.

Motion shall be directed to the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles City Attorney and the Los Angeles Board of Fire Commissioners.