From:	Dan Ammon
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Unincorporated king county fireworks ban
Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2021 4:39:20 AM

I do not support an unnecessary ban on fireworks in unincorporated King County. Please, if you truly do work for the people, be reasonable, and don't kill this timeless tradition. Thank you for your time.

Good morning,

I write to respectfully oppose PO 2021-0057, and specifically it's application to Vashon-Maury Island.

I grew up on Vashon Island, and July 4 quickly became my favorite holiday of the year, in large part due to the simple joy of safely setting off and observing fireworks at just about any July 4 party around the island. Notably, I have never known anyone (or property) to be injured due to fireworks. Today I live in New York, where fireworks are sadly illegal, but my family still resides on the Island, and I return many times a year. I always make a point of returning around July 4 to relive the fun of my upbringing, and I plan to eventually own a second or even primary home on the Island. Many, many Island residents would be very saddened to have our long-standing and reasonably limited fireworks rights taken away. Moreover, the permitting and fee requirements will disproportionately disadvantage non-homeowners and the indigent.

Vashon may be a bit different than the rest of unincorporated King County—it's residents look after one another and resolve disputes amicably. Please do not take away this treasured, time-honored tradition that so many residents, young and old, have grown to love.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Atkins Vashon Island Resident 1991-2006 Vashon Island High School Class of 2004

**Alexander Atkins** (914) 318-2256

From:	Duncan Balcom
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	re Fireworks ban
Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:59:58 AM

I strongly oppose the proposed firework ban. As a child growing up on Vashon, I have nothing but fond memories of 4th of July fireworks displays. Now as an adult with homes on the island I would hate to not see my children be able to safely experience the same magic> Thank you Duncan Balcom

From:	ROBERT BALDERSON
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Fireworks Ban
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:15:26 PM

Please pass this bill forward to full council. As I said in a previous e mail the noise and shock value from illegal fireworks in my area is terrible. It not only scares all the animals but as I said I know 2 veterans who leave the area when this goes on. I could go on and on but I believe you get the point. Almost all the cities within King Co. have banned them. It is time make the whole county this way. Thank you, Robert Balderson

#### March 16, 2021

#### SENT VIA EMAIL THRU KING COUNTY COUNCIL CLERK: kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov

Hon. Chair Claudia Balducci and Members of the King County Council:

I am writing to you, again, in strong support of Councilmember McDermott's and Chair Balducci's proposed Ordinance 2021-0057, which would prohibit retail sale of fireworks and their unauthorized discharge in all areas of unincorporated King County. At tomorrow's Committee of the Whole meeting, I urge you to support moving this ordinance to formal consideration by County Council, including the technical changes suggested by King County Fire Commissioners Association president, Mark Thompson in his February 26, 2021 letter to the Council.

I listened carefully to the testimony on both sides of this controversial policy issue, during presentation of the ordinance at the previous Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. As we nearly saw occur last summer in South County, the threat of massive destruction in our suburban/wildland interface areas can--and should--be reduced by outlawing all non-permitted, regulated fireworks displays. *Thus, suggestions by the fireworks industry to allow fireworks use outside of urbanized areas simply is a risk too great to take.* In my experience and opinion, revenue generated from fireworks sale by worthy causes, does not justify the inevitable additional property damage, injuries and even loss of life that they cause. Most municipalities have long- banned fireworks sale, and their non-profit organizations successfully turned to safe and beneficial fundraising alternatives. Another key fact discussed at the previous COW meeting, is that deputies responding to fireworks incidents typically cannot distinguish between illegal and currently legal, so-called "safe-and-sane" types, which frequently makes enforcement impractical.

Finally, I urge you to consider the additional public safety risk that occurs in the days leading up to and during every July 4<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve. Firefighting/EMS resources are stretched to their limit by simultaneously responding to both fireworks-related calls, and everyday emergencies like house fires and heart attacks. This places an enormous and unjustified burden on those crews, and puts each and every one of us at greater health and safety risk.

Thank you in advance for considering this vitally-important ordinance, adoption of which will greatly enhance public safety and reduce fire risk within unincorporated areas of King County.

Sincerely,

tont David A. Berger

Commissioner South King Fire & Rescue

#### Hello.

I live in White Center, and have for several years now. At first I thought it'd be fun to live somewhere that fireworks were allowed. Then reality set in. It is NEVER "only" on the 4th of July and New Years Eve. it's for a solid 3 weeks before and after July 4th, and a smattering of days around New Years. Oh, and of course EVERY touch down/point/win of a Seahawk's game. My dog has gotten used to it, but for a solid six months after our first 4th of July, a dog that was OK with Texas thunderstorms wouldn't go outside to relive herself at night!

And it's not "just a few" fireworks. It's an outright shelling. We have posted videos to our FB account and friends who have been in Afghanistan say it sounds like worse shelling than they endured in the green zones!!!

To make clear the level of fireworks we are dealing with, I've included two links to fireworks that are "normal" for a house near the corner of 26th Ave SW and SW 106th St. This isn't even the full display as the house next door to this one has almost as much, as the two families compete on firework displays, Halloween displays, Christmas Light displays and it is ALL very National Lampoon over the top. Their fireworks go on for HOURS and HOURS, well before dark and after midnight. If people can't follow the rules and limit themselves to authorized types of fireworks within authorized hours, they shouldn't be allowed to fire them at all.

### https://i.imgur.com/tv9MBqc.jpg

## https://i.imgur.com/EBWZ9oT.jpg

In addition to this, one year my husband was forced to drag our personal water hose out, over our fence, and across the street to put out a fire started by some young idiots who were throwing fireworks out of a moving car, which is sadly common. In the drought at the time the grass in the curb area next to the driveway of the apartment complex across the street immediately caught fire. The flames were rushing up the curb towards both an established tree and a parked car, which potentially could have caught on fire and exploded if the fire had reached it, and from there taken out a 4-plex apartment. My husband had to put it out because the local firehouse was too busy putting out more than one similar fire in surrounding blocks and there were no trucks available. The fire marshal came by, saw my husband had it under control by time they got there, and told him to keep watering.

Every year we stress about our house catching on fire. Every year we take great pains to protect our property. We water our yard and garden beds so plants and grass are not dry and easily flammable. We have our roof and gutters cleaned. We get our yard cleaned up, as we have a Ponderosa Pine and a Douglas Fir that are dropping tons of dry needles during the summer that would act like kindling. I am physically disabled, and my husband has some physical limitations as well, meaning it costs us money each year to prepare for a fire risk from people acting like fools.

Please, ban fireworks in King County! My property taxes doubled this past year and I shouldn't be subjected to having to fight my own fires because this behavior is allowed, especially if county services can't keep up with demand.

Thank you,

Melissa K. Brunson

From:	<u>slburkey50</u>
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	ban fireworks in unincorporated area
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:45:38 PM

I am writing from Crest Airport Area to ban fireworks. Especially in Neighborhood Area. Reasons:

1. Homes are to close in neighborhoods. With lots of trees that our dry during summer. Each year recently have been getting warmer. Firebans are put in place. But not fireworks. Fireworks shot off are not legal ones. No one in my area shoots off legal ones. They get all from Muckleshoot. People go to there friends in my area and bring boxes. Last year lasted Til 2am. Was shooting off from 8pm to 2am. That stuff was dropping everywhere. Few years Back a bad fire could of happened and could of taken alot of trees and homes. That year we called 911 and they said call if is burning area bad. They didn't care. So why Call. Some neighbors had trunk full of illegal fireworks. Not a few. thousands dollar worth. Of course They don't Shoot direction of their homes. Next morn boxes and boxes piled. Crap all over like muckleshoot area.

Sad, When it gets close to dark we have to be home to make sure our home is OK.

2. You don't shoot those kind of fireworks off in a housing development. Muckleshoot fireworks

Are for open spaces. They want to see those kind of fireworks go to the reservation show. Seattle. Go to Emerald downs. Go to Lake meridian. Go wherever they shoot them off.

We don't need bomb sounding fireworks going off. We got wildlife, veterans with issues.

Because they fought for us. I have a gal in neighborhood who came from a bombing country. She hates it. Reminds her. Wakes her up scared.

- 3) Drinking and shooting off illegal fireworks don't mix
- 4. If anything. Like Auburn and Pacific. Shoots in air should not be allowed. Sign put up.. If caught fine should be at least \$2000 dollars. Get the point and take seriously.

Your kids can enjoy legal ones and have fun at Barbecue, games etc.....

5) I am fighting for firework ban too stop illegal ones from shooting in housing areas. Like Crest airport. Winterwood etc ,....in unincorporated housing areas especially. We have been lucky so far. Could do alot of damage if Couldn't put fires out. Don't do it will be really crazy this year. Come down my street. Could make lots of money

To improve our area.

6) Hope Ban fireworks that especially shoot up in air. Signs go up in neighborhoods. like Auburn and Pacific.

Thank you Richard & Sandy Burkey 29718 174 th Ave Se Kent Wash. 98042 Crest Airport

Dear Councilmembers:

I heartily support the ordinance to ban the sale and discharge of commercial fireworks in unincorporated King County. I have lived in Woodinville for 15 years. Every year, starting around the first of July, my family, which includes two dogs, endures days of loud pops, bangs, and whistles as people shoot off fireworks. Our peace of mind is disrupted when I spend time in my garden during the day, during dinner on our patio, and in the evening as we relax after a long day.

My dogs are terrified of all the noises and don't want to take their daily walks or spend time in our yard with me. Each day the amount of fireworks increases until July 4th when there is so much noise around us that our dogs shake for hours. It's not until 2 AM or so that our neighborhood finally quiets down. For days after July 4th, when I walk my dogs around our neighborhood, I can see the litter left behind from all the fireworks that have been discharged.

My house backs up to a 50 acre wetland and we see bobcats, bear, weasels, rabbits, deer, raccoons, hawks, and owls. I'm sure that all of these animals are stressed for days during all the noise created by people lighting off fireworks.

Please ban the sale of these fireworks in unincorporated King County. There are many commercial firework shows for people to enjoy all around our county. There is no need for folks to light off their own. Peace lovers, pets, and wildlife will thank you!

Sincerely,

Lael Camacho

Sent from my iPad



CORT PARTY RENTAL

February 19th, 2021

To: King County Council

Cc: Danny Richards, TNT Fireworks

Council members,

As the provider of tenting for TNT Fireworks in the greater Seattle area, a ban on the sale of fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July would result in economic hardship. The event industry has been hit particularly hard by COVID-19 over the last 12 months, the revenue generated through our relationship with TNT is critical to be able to support our workforce and their communities. Please consider the impact a decision to ban fireworks sales would have on the economic health of the wider community in already trying times.

Thank

Wayne Andersen wayne.andersen@cort.com District General Manager

From:	Masuo, Janet on behalf of Clerk, King County Council
To:	<u>Steadman, Marka</u>
Cc:	<u>Pedroza, Melani</u>
Subject:	FW: Fireworks Ban
Date:	Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:17:07 PM

From: Communications, Comments <council@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Clerk, King County Council <Clerk@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Fireworks Ban

Andrew Andrew Jayasundera King County Council Communications 206-477-1015

From: Thomas Cossette <tjcossette411@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Communications, Comments <council@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: Fireworks Ban

To whom it may concern,

I am a life long King County resident and have celebrated Fourth of July with consumer fireworks for over 20 years. I do not support a ban on consumer fireworks for many reasons. My family would be forced to celebrate somewhere else as we love this tradition. It would force us out on the roads where people are more and more under the influence during Holidays. It would harm the local Kiwanis that we support every year. There would also be big ramifications for the local natives that sell fireworks as a second source of income. It would be so much more important to most residents of King County if we were able to clean up the drug addiction and homelessness that is plaguing our area. Maybe there are alternative ways to go about a total ban, a tax on usage, maybe split the ban between rural and urban unincorporated, those are some examples that I can think of. I do not support a ban on Fireworks.

Thank You Tom Cossette

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Barbara

Begin forwarded message:

From: Barbara Dobkin <br/><br/>bmdobkin@gmail.com><br/>Date: March 16, 2021 at 3:43:58 PM PDT<br/>To: joe mcdermott <joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov><br/>Subject: Fwd: Ordinance 2021-0057

Barbara

#### Subject: Ordinance 2021-0057

Dear Council Members:

I am a resident of White Center and I am writing in support of a TOTAL BAN on Fireworks in Unincorporated King County. A partial ban or any other type of appeasement of the businesses that sell fireworks in our community does not work and is nothing more than an insult to this community.

These businesses have testified that they help non-profits with the sale of fireworks, but neglected to say that they also make a profit on these sales, a profit that comes at the expense of our community. With a ban, they along with the non-profits, will have over a year to look at safer ways to make money that will not have a deleterious impact on our community. It is time for them to move on from the sale of fireworks.

We truly suffer in White Center with the noise, smoke, and debris that is left behind every July 4th. Household animals are terrified, as well as impact on the many native birds in the area.

I am terrified too, terrified that my house could easily catch fire. We have had some very dry conditions in July when many brush fires were started by fireworks. I do not not leave my home. Instead, I hose down my yard and roof and keep a constant vigil.

BANS do work, contrary to what the fireworks business owners would have you believe. It will give our deputies the tools to warn or fine people who are not complying with the ban. How is a partial ban supposed to work? Are our deputies supposed to know what the legal and illegal fireworks sound like? This is just a foolish appeasement of the businesses that are profiting at our expense, as it does nothing about the noise, air pollution, or the other dangers associated with fireworks.

In 2019 a home burned to the ground, killing a man and his two dogs. This disaster left a woman without a home, husband, and pets. How many more tragedies must we endure before common sense solutions are enacted.

I cannot stress enough how harmful the fireworks are in North Highline. I hope the council will move forward with a common sense solution and vote to approve a TOTAL BAN.

Thank you, Barbara Dobkin 10020 20th Ave, SW White Center, WA 98146 <u>bmdobkin@gmail.com</u> My Testimony regarding the fireworks ban:

- I support the ban
- We live in a neighborhood in un-incorporated KC, but surrounded by trees and native growth that is getting dryer each year. The threat from wildfire goes and July is increasingly dryer each year. It is only a matter of time before fireworks, if allowed, will start a fire. Thinks Paradise, CA where the whole town burned down.
- The argument that the ban will put businesses out of business is hollow. There are tons of examples where changes have impacted businesses. Smoking bans generated a lot of push back from bars saying they would go out of business. Seems, bars are doing well (except for COVID now). Unleaded gas caused a stir about cars losing performance, but cars have plenty of pep.
- If the ban is not enacted, then there should be liability attached to fireworks sales to make both the seller and the user liable for any damage. They want the business and profit and we have to take the risk. That is not how this works.

Peter Hartmaier (425) 785-1619

From: McDermott, Joe <Joe.McDermott@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:05 AM
Cc: Bailey, Melissa <Melissa.Bailey@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: Fireworks Ban: Testify Tomorrow

Tomorrow, March 17 at 9:30 AM, the <u>Committee of the Whole</u> will continue hearing testimony on my ordinance to ban the sale and discharge of commercial fireworks in unincorporated King County (<u>ordinance 2021-0057</u>). I am also hopeful the Committee will vote on this vital piece of legislation, moving it to full Council for final consideration.

Your voice matters! The Council needs to continue hearing from residents impacted by fireworks about why we need to pass a full ban. If you are able, please sign up to testify or submit public comment.

The directions on how to testify remotely at the Committee of the Whole meeting can be found here: <u>https://kingcounty.gov/council/committees/cow.aspx.</u> If you are unavailable to attend the meeting, there are also directions on how to submit written public comment. I encourage you to share this opportunity with anyone else you think may be interested in banning fireworks in unincorporated King County.

We must continue to advocate for a full ban on the sale and discharge of commercial fireworks because the risk they pose to people, property, pets, and wildlife is simply too great.

Thank you,

Joe

Joe McDermott King County Councilmember, District 8 Chair, King County Board of Health (he/him/his)

Subscribe to District 8's eNews and



From:	JOAN HUDDLESTON
To:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group); McDermott, Joe
Cc:	Mark Thompson; Rebecca Wells
Subject:	Proposed Fireworks Ban Ordinance 2021-0057 - I URGE PASSAGE of original PROPOSED ORDINANCE
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:31:20 PM

To the King County Council Committee of the Whole:

I support and urge passage of the orginal proposed ordinance, banning all fireworks, sales, use and display of consumer fireworks by untrained and unlicensed pyrotechnicians in all of unincorporated King County.

I am completely disgusted at efforts at amending the proposed ordinance to allow any specific fireworks. It appears to be a position: "That it is obvious that the fireworks industry has gotten to a few council members trying to water down the proposed ordinance". Shame on these council members who put the fireworks industry ahead of the welfare of the citizens.

We have suffered for many years with a war zone on and before and after July 4. A man died. These fireworks are still are responsible for many of the negative effects we already experience including, excessive noise often on days other than the Fourth of July, air pollution effecting those with respiratory issues, frightening pets, wildlife, and people with PTSD, and can still cause fires, injuries, and litter the ground with debris.

The council needs to pass the ban, support the welfare of the citizens. There is no excuse to cave to the interests of the fireworks industry. The fireworks are all illegal. I am, unfortunately unable to attend the virtual meeting, but ask that my support of the original ban and its urgency and importance be noted and my letter here as well. Please be responsible in your role as leaders and pass the original ban.

I would ask that more timely notifications be more for citizen input.

Thank you. And THANKS for great work overall! Joan Huddleston 206-244-3052

From:	Keenan Ordon-Bakalian
To:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Cc:	Jamie Howsley
Subject:	Committee of the Whole- Public Comment on PO 2021-0057 (Fireworks Ban)
Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:48:17 AM
Attachments:	Ltr. to King County re PO 2021-0057 (Fireworks Ban) 3.16.2021.pdf

Please see the attached public comment submitted on behalf of Jake's Fireworks, Inc., regarding PO 2021-0057. We request you distribute this comment to the Committee prior to today's Committee meeting.

Thank you,

KEENAN ORDON-BAKALIAN | Attorney Jordan Ramis PC | Attorneys at Law Direct: 360-567-4843 Main: 360-567-3900 Mobile: 425-577-8998

Portland OR | Vancouver WA | Bend OR www.jordanramis.com

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1499 SE Tech Center Place, Ste. 380 Vancouver, WA 98683

Tel. (360) 567-3900 Fax (360) 567-3901

www.jordanramis.com

Jamie D. Howsley Admitted in Oregon and Washington jamie.howsley@jordanramis.com Direct Dial: (360) 567-3913

March 16, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

King County Committee of the Whole c/o Marka Steadman, Legislative Clerk King County Courthouse 516 Third Ave Rm 1200 Seattle, WA 98104-3272 E-Mail: Marka.steadman@kingcounty.gov

## Re: Fireworks- Proposed Ord. No. 2021-0057

Dear Chair McDermott and members of the Committee of the Whole:

Our office represents Jake's Fireworks ("Jake's") and we are submitting the following comments regarding Proposed Ordinance No. 2021-0057 (PO 2021-0057), which would ban the retail sale and discharge of fireworks in King County. Jake's is a nationally renowned retailer and wholesale distributor of quality fireworks and has a deep knowledge of the fireworks industry. Jake's respectfully requests the Committee of the Whole (the "Committee") decline to act on PO 2021-0057 as it is unduly restrictive and will not achieve the King County's intended goal of safeguarding the health and welfare of its citizens.

Jake's believes that PO 2021-0057 will not achieve the County's desired goal of reducing nuisance impacts from fireworks, while also ensuring the safety of King County residents. Importantly, consumer fireworks are not responsible for an appreciable amount of injuries each year.<sup>1</sup> The primary driver of nuisance and public safety concerns—bottle rockets, sky rockets, missiles, and firecrackers—are *already* illegal to sell at retail or to use in Washington State, except on tribal lands.<sup>2</sup> Based off public testimony at the March 3, 2021 public hearing on PO 2021-0057, it appears that many concerned citizens are not aware of this fact and instead believe that PO 2021-0057 will ameliorate the impacts that are caused by these already-illegal fireworks. The truth is, these already-illegal fireworks are still being used within King County during fireworks holidays. Banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks are located outside King County and will remain unaffected by PO 2021-0057. Instead, the County is be better served focusing on outreach, education, and enforcement of existing state and local fireworks laws.

Moreover, adoption of PO 2021-0057 will eliminate the primary driver of funding for many local civic groups, including churches and nonprofits. Many of these groups derive a significant portion of their fundraising from the retail sale of consumer fireworks and this revenue is not easily replaced. Especially considering the impact and financial strain COVID-19 has had on local community

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See attached, Exhibit A: Fireworks Safety- Facts and Figures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> RCW 70.77.401.

King County Committee of the Whole March 16, 2021 Page 2

organizations, now is not the time to do away these organizations' primary revenue source. Jake's firmly believes that PO 2021-0057 will negatively impact the citizens of King County by taking money out of the very organizations that help to fuel the community.

Jake's is also deeply concerned with several of the mechanical aspects of PO 2021-0057, including the penalty increase for violating fireworks regulations. Increasing the maximum penalty from \$250 per day to \$1,000 per day will disproportionately impact low-income communities and effectuate an inequitable outcome on those not aware of the change in fireworks regulations. In addition, Jake's opposes PO 2021-0057's further restriction on the location and frequency of public displays of fireworks.

Finally, Jake's has significant concerns with the impact PO 2021-0057 will have on the tribes and cities in King County that sell fireworks. The sale of fireworks represents a significant revenue stream for the tribes of King County, including the Snoqualmie Tribe, who rely on the Snoqualmie Fireworks Supply as a business enterprise essential for securing the future and security of its People.<sup>3</sup> Banning the use of consumer fireworks within King County will be inherently detrimental to the interests and wellbeing of tribes such as the Snoqualmie and Muckleshoot,<sup>4</sup> who currently sell large quantities of fireworks to residents living in unincorporated King County.

Fireworks are ingrained in our Nation's fabric and identity. July Fourth is when Americans show our patriotism and celebrate time-honored American traditions. As a national leader in the fireworks industry, Jake's recognizes the essential role fireworks play in supporting our local communities and American self-expression. For the foregoing reasons, the Committee should *not* advance the proposed ordinance. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

JORDAN RAMIS PC

formes S. Hours

Jamie D. Howsley

cc: Keenan Ordon-Bakalian Client

Attachment: Exhibit A- Fireworks Safety- Facts and Figures

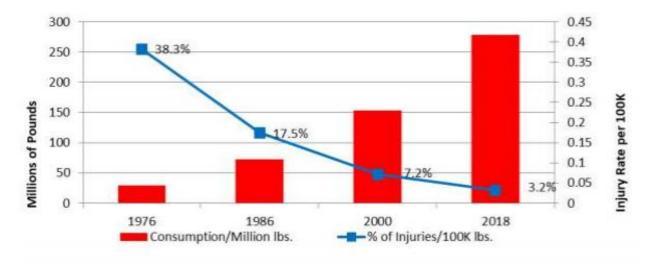
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See <u>https://www.snoqualmietribe.us/content/enterprises</u> (Accessed Mar. 16, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Muckleshoot Tribe operates the Muckleshoot Fireworks Mall, which represents a valuable revenue source for the Tribe and its People.



## Exhibit A: Fireworks Safety- Facts and Figures

Consumption of fireworks in the United States has risen dramatically during the past four decades, from 29 million pounds in 1976 to over 277.5 million pounds in 2018. During this period of unprecedented growth, fireworks injuries have declined dramatically due to industry safety education efforts and the ever improving quality of its products. Over the most recent decade, this downward injury trend continues even as an increasing number of states & municipalities have relaxed their consumer fireworks laws.<sup>1</sup>



American Pyrotechnics Association (2018).<sup>2</sup>

In 2018, 32 million Americans suffered non-fatal injuries according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that for the same year, approximately 9,100 Americans were injured in fireworks-related incidents. This means fireworks were involved in only 0.06% of all injuries in 2018. In contrast, baseball equipment

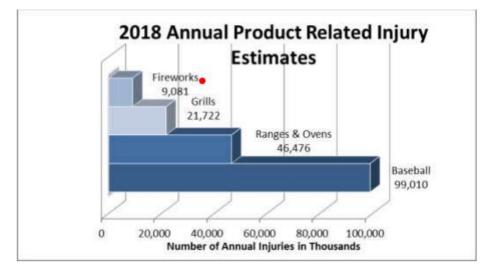
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The injury rate for fireworks was almost 56% lower in 2018 compared to 2000. American Pyrotechnics Association, FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURY RATES CONTINUE TO DECLINE AS STATES LIBERALIZE LAWS,

https://pyro.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/FactsandFigures/rev19ConsumpVinjuriesLiberalizationgrap h,%201976-2018.pdf (Accessed Nov. 30, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Accessed at

https://pyro.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/FactsandFigures/rev19ConsumpVinjuriesLiberalizationgrap h,%201976-2018.pdf (Nov. 30, 2020).

was responsible for over 99,000 estimated injuries in 2018. In 2019, 273 million pounds of fireworks were ignited in the United States, with only 3.6 injuries per 100,000 pounds.<sup>3</sup>



American Pyrotechnics Association (2018).<sup>4</sup>

For more information on industry facts and figures, please visit the webpage of the American Pyrotechnics Association. $^{5}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> American Pyrotechnics Association, FIREWORKS-RELATED INJURY RATES, 1976-2019, https://pyro.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/FactsandFigures/Fireworks%20Related%20Injuries%20%2 8table%29%201976%20-2019.pdf (Accessed Nov. 30, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Accessed at

https://pyro.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/FactsandFigures/Fireworks%20Injuries%20Perspecitive.20 19.pdf (Nov. 30, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://pyro.memberclicks.net/industry-facts-figures.

From:	Nancy Lopez
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group); McDermott, Joe
Subject:	Written public comment: Opposed to proposed amendment to Ordinance 2021-0057
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 4:51:25 PM

### King County Council members:

I live in White Center, and I support and urge passage of the original proposed ordinance, banning all sales, use, and display of all fireworks by untrained and unlicensed pyrotechnicians in all of unincorporated King County.

If you've never been in White Center during July 4th I urge you to hang out here this coming July 4th and you will understand why so many people are in favor of the ban. Rest assured I love fireworks, but not if they're being shot off by untrained adults AND children on my block feet from my and my neighbors homes. Most of the people partaking in this irresponsible behavior are untrained and one firework shot off in the wrong direction can mean death to someone or displacement to someone as it did for that poor man in 2019 in White Center. He and his dog died and his home burnt to a crisp - how many more people need to die or be displaced for you guys to do the right thing? White Center is seeing a boom in businesses opening up and really an awesome transformation so just get with the times and pass the ban already like in the rest of Seattle.

Nancy Lopez

Councilmembers,

My name is Alan Martin, Commissioner, King County Fire Protection District 10. I write to you in support of Proposed Ordinance 2021-0057, Fireworks Ban in Unincorporated King County.

Each year in King County numerous injuries, and occasionally deaths, are attributed to nonprofessional use of fireworks. As I'm sure you know, non-professional fireworks displays have resulted in considerable property loss and wildland fires. Taxpayers foot the bill when fire service agencies must staff with extra aid units and engine companies around the New Year and Independence Day holidays to respond to fireworks-related emergencies.

I ask you to support the proposed ordinance, amended to eliminate the apparent limit on the number of permitted professional fireworks displays. I believe the limit of two permitted professional fireworks displays unnecessarily complicates the enforcement of the ordinance. *Please do not adopt amendments intended to allow sales or use of certain types of fireworks intended for non-professional consumers. This not only continues risk of injury and property damage, but will leave uncertainty among citizens and law enforcement as to what is or is not legal.* Stiffer penalties for illegal fireworks sales and discharge should be considered for first time and repeat ordinance violators.

Thank you for your support of sound public safety and good policy.

Alan Martin Commissioner, King County Fire Protection District 10 Director, Eastside Fire and Rescue

From:	Sylvia McAllister
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Fireworks Ban
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 3:14:18 PM

Please ban the sale and discharge of all fireworks in unincorporated King County. I live between Sammamish and Redmond, off of 202. It sounds like a war zone for days when fireworks are available for sale. Our dog is now so petrified at their loud booms that she runs to our basement and will NOT come upstairs again. In fact she is petrified of all loud sounds now even from the garbage truck emptying cans or construction work. Her ears go back and she starts to try and flee the area. We have had to take her to a park in city limits just to get her to do her business at night because she won't in the yard if neighbors are shooting these things. The current hours of sale and discharging are too long for too many days so for us to leave the area to someplace that prohibits them is not possible and very expensive. I would need to leave for at least a week incurring all the expenses of travel, lodging, food, etc. And a week is not a guarantee that someone nearby doesn't still have some to shoot later. It's not necessary to sell to the public or allow them to discharge them at all hours on multiple days. It's not a right!!! Go watch a professional display or watch it on tv. It's a huge trash generator too. When I go walk my dog the next day there is so much shrapnel and cardboard in the streets. Our neighbors shot so much of this crap last year that we found it in our gutters, grass, on our driveway, on the roof. We picked it up in two grocery bags and gave it back to them.

And to how dangerous this stuff is in the public's hands, I helped take care of a friend's children while she was at the hospital with her husband. He blew up his foot when one of these mortars fell over and he kicked it to protect his family from the discharge. He had over 10 surgeries for his foot.

Just ban the fireworks finally. Enough is enough.

Sylvia McAllister

From:	Linda Olson
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Ordinance No. 2021-0057 Fireworks Ban
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:39:38 PM

(I am unsure whether I will be able to provide oral public testimony for the meeting tomorrow so I am providing my comments in writing.)

I am in support of the fireworks ban. In past testimony you have heard all of the reasons: they are dangerous causing injuries and sometimes death; they start fires and cause property damage; they pollute our environment and irritate allergies; they cause veterans and others with PTSD to suffer; they scare pets and wildlife causing them to run away, get injured or abandon their young; and, other reasons.

You've also heard from those in support of fireworks. Many have a vested interest since they sell fireworks, either to the local fireworks stands or to the public.

People have argued that fireworks are what Independence Day is all about. They say they can't celebrate without having fireworks. Unfortunately, another one of the traditions of the 4th of July is having a few drinks. Even someone who knows all of the safety precautions might not follow them if their mind is fuzzy from alcohol.

You heard from many who use their fireworks stands to raise funds for non-profits. They say they will no longer be able to raise money if fireworks are banned. Many cities have banned fireworks in the past few years. The non-profits who had used firework stands as fundraisers in those cities did not disband or fail. Instead, they found other ways to raise money.

I know this is not an easy decision and that a choice to ban fireworks will be unpopular in some neighborhoods. Hopefully, the need to protect our citizens, environment and property will be the driving force behind your vote. Thank you for your time.

Linda Olson Maple Valley 206 713-5431

From:	Robert Price
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	King County (ordinance 2021-0057)
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:25:06 PM

# Dear KC Committee of the Whole,

On July 4, 2019, Sonny Kennedy, a North Highline man, and his dogs were killed by a house fire that was started by rogue fireworks. His wife was left to deal with the loss of her husband, pets, and home. Mrs. Kennedy's nextdoor neighbors, a large

family, was also displaced because their house also caught fire. There have been deaths in the past. Others have been scarred – physically and emotionally.

The cities of Burien and Seattle ban fireworks. The result is that people from more affluent areas around us come to North Highline to get their fireworks fix at our

expense. They explode large quantities of fireworks at all hours of the day for days before and after the 4 th of July holiday. There are many small fires. Debris fills the

streets. A gray, smelly unhealthy haze hangs over our community. It feels like we are under attack. Our neighbors who suffer from PTSD are forced to

relive their past traumas and persevere because there is no place to hide. Our traumatized dogs shake, cower, and are lost when they break through fences.

Many of us are forced to hose down our yards and roofs, shut our windows, medicate our pets, turn up the music and hope for the best.

The situation is untenable. Our overburdened deputies and firefighters cannot control the dangerous chaos because King County has not banned fireworks.

This is not fair, equitable or smart. King County has made North Highline an urban area, but still allows uncontrolled explosives to be sold and used here. This is

inviting more disasters like the one that happened in 2019.

This is a public safety issue. You can end this dangerous situation. Accordingly, we ask that you do the right thing.

Please ban fireworks in unincorporated King County ! Thank you for your serious consideration of this serious issue.

Robert & Patricia Price

residents of Boulevard Park, Unincorporated King County

Dear Clerk of the Committee of the Whole:

Please include the attached letter in support of the original ordinance 2021-0057 at tomorrow's hearing along with the content of this email.

South King Fire & Rescue urges the committee to support the <u>original ordinance without the</u> <u>proposed amendments</u>.

**Over 77% of our County's citizens live in cities that have an outright ban on fireworks**. We must have a regional approach. <u>Any provisions</u> for the discharge of fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county frustrate enforcement efforts where most of our citizens live and work.

Respectfully,

Gordon Goodsell | Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Prevention 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Desk: 253.946.7241 | Mobile: 253.561.3717 We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance the quality of life. Join SKFR on: southkingfire.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

From: Goodsell, Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:17 PM
To: 'kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov' <kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Unincorporated King County Fireworks Ban Reintroduced

Dear Clerk of the Committee of the Whole:

Please include this letter in support of ordinance 2021-0057 at tomorrow's hearing.

Thank you.

Gordon Goodsell | Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Prevention 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Desk: 253.946.7241 | Mobile: 253.561.3717 We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance the quality of life. Join SKFR on: southkingfire.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

From: Thompson, Mark <<u>Mark.Thompson@southkingfire.org</u>>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:16 PM

To: Goodsell, Gordon <<u>Gordon.Goodsell@southkingfire.org</u>>
 Cc: Pennington, Vic <<u>Vic.Pennington@southkingfire.org</u>>; Berger, David
 <<u>David.Berger@SOUTHKINGFIRE.ORG</u>>; Perry, Lauri <<u>Lauri.Perry@southkingfire.org</u>>
 Subject: Re: FW: Unincorporated King County Fireworks Ban Reintroduced

FYI, the fireworks ban ordinance is being heard by the county council of the whole.

Letters should be sent to the cleek of the committee of the whole, who is different than the clerk of the council; the committee of the whole clerk will distribute tge letters and include in the written testimony of of the committee.

Send letters to <u>kcccomm@kingcounty.gov</u>

Also, there is a process to use to speak to the proposal. Go to <u>www.kingcounty.gov/council/committes</u> and click on Committee of the whole in the center colum on the committee page.

FYI, to better define our unincorpirated area served it is better to use: unincorporated Lakeland North and Lakeland South is much more definitive and matches up with GMA and Comprehensive plan maps.

Thanks for your support.

Commish Markt

On Feb 16, 2021 11:59, "Goodsell, Gordon" <<u>Gordon.Goodsell@southkingfire.org</u>> wrote: fyi

Gordon Goodsell | Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Prevention 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Desk: 253.946.7241 | Mobile: 253.561.3717 *We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance the quality of life.* Join SKFR on: <u>southkingfire.org</u> | <u>Facebook</u> | <u>Twitter</u> | <u>LinkedIn</u>

From: Goodsell, Gordon
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:58 AM
To: 'Melissa.Bailey@kingcounty.gov' <<u>Melissa.Bailey@kingcounty.gov</u>>
Subject: RE: Unincorporated King County Fireworks Ban Reintroduced

Melissa Bailey,

Thank you for this notice and the opportunity to respond. Please include this letter.

I would also like to speak on behalf of Chief Pennington in support of the ordinance in Public Comment.

Thank you

#### Gordy

Gordon Goodsell | Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Prevention 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Desk: 253.946.7241 | Mobile: 253.561.3717 *We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance the quality of life.* Join SKFR on: <u>southkingfire.org</u> | <u>Facebook</u> | <u>Twitter</u> | <u>LinkedIn</u>

From: Bailey, Melissa [mailto:Melissa.Bailey@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Pennington, Vic <<u>Vic.Pennington@southkingfire.org</u>>
Subject: Unincorporated King County Fireworks Ban Reintroduced

Chief Pennington,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Melissa Bailey and I staff King County Councilmember Joe McDermott. He asked me to reach out and let you know that he has reintroduced the ordinance banning fireworks in unincorporated King County.

The new ordinance number is <u>2021-0057</u>. The language is the same as what was introduced before with one change. CM McDermott has added language that limits the number of public fireworks displays to two per year on any given property. This change came out of the discussion at the first fireworks briefing early last year. At the briefing, someone asked whether there was an absolute limit on the number of public display permits someone could acquire in a given year – the answer was that there was none, someone could in theory get a permit for a public display every day of the year if all other requirements were met. Realizing this, Executive staff recommended limiting the public displays to two per year. This is the standard number of days you can do anything on your property that's not normally allowed.

The first briefing is set to happen in the Committee of the Whole on Feb 17. It will be a briefing only (so no vote that day), but there will be the opportunity to provide public comment. I believe you provided a letter of support for the ban before (see attached). Will you be able to provide an updated letter? And if you are interested in providing public testimony, you can find directions for how to join the meeting here: <a href="https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees/cow.aspx">https://www.kingcounty.gov/council/committees/cow.aspx</a>. The meeting starts at 9:30 AM. They usually start the meeting with a COVID update and then do public testimony.

I'm happy to answer any questions. Email and my cell (in my signature below) are the best ways to reach me.

Thank you, Melissa Melissa Bailey, Senior Policy Advisor (She/Her Pronouns) Councilmember Joe McDermott, District 8 Metropolitan King County Council 516 Third Avenue, Room 1200; Seattle, WA 98104 Office 206.263.0114 | Cell: 206.310.7533

Please note all messages are subject to public disclosure.

From: Pennington, Vic <<u>Vic.Pennington@southkingfire.org</u>>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Communications, Comments <<u>council@kingcounty.gov</u>>
Subject: King County Ordinance 2020-0109 "Unincorporated King County Fireworks Ban

Hello, Clerk of the Council, Would you please distribute the attached letters to the council members.

Respectfully,

Victor L. Pennington II, CTO, #013 | Fire Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Administration | CH361 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Business: 253.839.6234 | Office: 253.946.7325 | Mobile: 206.510.4886 We provide professional fire department services to safeguard the community and enhance the quality of life. Join SKFR on: southkingfire.org | Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn

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www.southkingfire.org

February 16, 2021

The Honorable King County Council 516 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Room 1200 Seattle WA 98104

Dear King County Council Members,

Each year fireworks-related incidents cause fires that injure citizens, endanger responders, destroy structures and damage property. The environment is also harmed by discharging smoke into the air, and pollutants are carried into our streams and Puget Sound by the thousands of gallons of water used to fight these fires. These incidents reduce our availability to respond to other emergencies, and citizens across our district bear the expense of hiring back staffing in anticipation of the predictable result of unregulated fireworks.

Our service areas include parts of Unincorporated King County in addition to the cities of Federal Way and Des Moines. These cities, like many others in the County, have banned the retail sales and use of fireworks. The lack of a uniform regional approach to this problem causes confusion in our population and reduces the compliance in areas that are actually banned.

South King Fire & Rescue joins the King County Fire Chief's Association and the King County Fire Commissioner's Association in respectfully requesting your support of ordinance <u>2021-0057</u>.

toode

Gordon Goodsell | Fire Marshal / Assistant Chief | South King Fire & Rescue | Prevention 31617 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003 Desk: 253.946.7241 | Mobile: 253.561.3717

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March 16, 2021

# Att: King County Councilmembers

Rob Dembowski Girmay Zahilay Kathy Lambert Jeanne Kohl-Welles Dave Upthegrove Claudia Balducci Pete von Reichbauer Joe McDermott

Reagan Dunn

# Cc: Chief of Staff

- Kristina Logsdon
- Rhonda Lewis
- Dylan Brown
- Adam Cooper
- Diana Phibbs
- Tyler Pichette
- Grant Lahmann

Cody Eccles

Melanie Pedroza



Dear Councilmembers,

As you contemplate Proposed Ordinance 2021-0057 that will ban the sale and use of all Washington legal consumer fireworks in the County, TNT Fireworks would like for you to consider the following facts.

FACT #1. Complete bans do not work! When legal consumer fireworks are not made available to the buying public, the traffickers of illegal fireworks will increase their efforts and will flourish. While the authors have good intentions, the desired results will force law abiding citizens to break the law and cause substantial increase in use of illegal fireworks. THIS IS A FACT.

FACT #2. The complete ban will not only punish the 32 nonprofit groups and individuals that raise much needed funds that provide services to the residents of King County but those residents will be punished as well. In communities where a complete ban has been implemented, those funds are not replaced by other fundraisers and the services for the residents disappear. THIS IS A FACT.

FACT #3. What is successful is a partnership between King County Fire and Law Enforcement, nonprofit groups, and TNT Fireworks to provide a program that informs and educates the public how to purchase only King County approved fireworks at licensed retail locations and how to use these products safely. It has worked in other communities and it can work in King County. THIS IS A FACT.

As we all emerge from this pandemic, residents of King County will celebrate their "independence" this coming July 4<sup>th</sup> as suggested by

AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC. 2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421 TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930 www.tntfireworks.com



President Biden. How will they do that? They will invite their close family over for a BBQ and top of their day by enjoying their own backyard fireworks display.

On behalf of the 32 nonprofit groups, individuals, and TNT Fireworks, we respectfully request that you vote NO on an outright ban and YES to the amendment offered up by Councilmember von Reichbauer. Additionally, require a coordinated Safety and Education program to be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration,

**TNT** Fireworks

AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC. 2120 MILWAUKEE WAY • TACOMA, WA 98421 TACOMA (253) 922-0800 • FAX (253) 830-2930 www.tntfireworks.com

From:	Lisa Turnpaugh
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Banning Fireworks in Unincorporated King County
Date:	Tuesday, March 16, 2021 2:57:33 PM

I fully support the total and complete ban of fireworks in Unincorporated King County.

With the rapid population expansion and growth of King County and unincorporated King County, this designated area is no longer wide open spaces. Instead, it is filled with closely built communities, where, by today's zoning laws, homes are a mere 10 feet apart. These communities have been built in forested areas, where King County does not perform any thinning or removing of dead or decaying vegetation; thereby creating a very explosive and fire rich environment during the dry and droughty summer months. Allowing fireworks to be released by the general public in these areas is just plain reckless and setting up for serious and life threatening situations, and in fact, by allowing these in unincorporated county, is encouraging the use of them. Many local cities have banned them and made them illegal. Why can't King County, especially unincorporated King County?

Many many homeowner pets are terrified of the noise fireworks emit, and run away from home in an attempt to escape the sounds. These pets are either forever lost or hit by cars on busy streets. Even when the pets are kept inside, many end up on tranquilizers to calm their fears. One of our pets, a rescue dog, was SO terrified of firework sound (which sound carries sometimes for miles) that we would have to give it tranquilizers, put it in the laundry room with a radio playing and also turning on the washer and dryer – and STILL the noises could be heard and the dog would be cowering, drooling, shaking, and crying. All for what – so someone can blow up a firework for their amusement?

Children, teenagers who have not yet developed critical thinking, and adults, continually are harmed and injured by fireworks. Serious bodily and facial burns, and missing limbs are just two of the serious results. Home fires, where errant fireworks have landed on home roofs, landscape, have, over the years, been numerous and life altering.

Many people – ex military and war refugees – experience debilitating PTSD from fireworks, with the firework sounds reminding them of bombs exploding.

These areas also are home to wildlife, which does NOT understand the explosive ear deafening noises that fireworks create. Wildlife then panics – birds attempt to fly and escape the noise but at night time are not able to navigate. Bears, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and other creatures fear for their lives and many times run onto the busy roads where they are hit and killed.

These are just some of the issues that the use of fireworks promotes. I believe that if fire dept. records are reviewed, one will find a substantial increase in calls made to fire departments that are solely related to the use of fireworks.

Due to the highly destructive and dangerous nature of fireworks, these should be ONLY allowed by certified and licensed professionals in controlled environments (i.e., formal displays in parks)– and

NOT be handled by the general public.

If someone wants to see fireworks, they can see them at professional displays. One does not HAVE to have a firework in their possession to enjoy them.

L. Turnpaugh

From:	Rebecca Wells
То:	KCC - Committee Assistants (Email Group)
Subject:	Fireworks Ban Ordinance 2021-0057
Date:	Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:53:52 AM

To the Committee of the Whole:

My reaction to the proposed amendment to Ordinance 2021-0057 was that I felt insulted that whoever is responsible for this amendment would insult our intelligence by essentially keeping the existing fireworks status quo, with the same negative effects we already experience including, **excessive noise** often for weeks before and after the Fourth of July, **air pollution** effecting those with respiratory issues, **traumatizing pets**, **wildlife**, **and people with PTSD**, and **fires**, **injuries**, and **litter** the ground with debris.

Even the relatively tame sparkler has its risks; it's the most common source of fireworksrelated injuries. Did you know that according to a report from the Consumer Product Safety Commission that **sparklers** lead to more injuries than any other device? And that kids 4 and under are the most likely age group to be injured by sparklers?

### https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Fireworks\_Report\_2017.pdf

Legislators in favor of passing bans on sparklers cite incidents such as the **tragic death of a 4-year-old girl in Wisconsin** over the Fourth of July window in 2017. The firework injury happened after the girl's father placed several sparklers inside a metal tube and secured the tube in a flower pot to make it stand upright. Several rounds turned out well but on the final attempt the heat from the sparklers blew up the tube, sending pieces of shrapnel in the air. Sadly, some hit his daughter in the neck who was standing about 10 to 12 feet away from the tube. If these words don't convince you that sparklers and other consumer fireworks are highly dangerous, just do a Google image search on "sparkler injuries." I guarantee that you will be shocked at how much pain and damage these supposed "safe and sane" fireworks can cause.

I live in White Center (unincorporated North Highline area), and we are between two cities, Seattle and Burien, who have banned ALL private consumer fireworks. People from outside of Unincorporated King County come here and discharge huge quantities of fireworks, including illegal ones, every Fourth of July, and proceed to light them at all hours of the day, not only on the Fourth, but for days before and after the holiday.

I believe that by allowing ANY consumer fireworks creates confusion about which fireworks are permitted, creates the false impression that some fireworks are safe, and makes enforcement more difficult. Consumer fireworks bans are working for the most part for Seattle, Burien, and many other cities in King County, and it will also help Unincorporated King County be safer.

Despite any possible tax revenue we might get from sparklers and other consumer fireworks, it's just not worth the serious injuries, especially to children.

I support and urge passage of the orginal proposed ordinance, banning all sales, use and display of consumer fireworks by untrained and unlicensed pyrotechnicians in all of unincorporated King County. Rebecca Wells (206) 406-8595