



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No.209

EFFECTIVE June 13, 2022

WHEREAS, Over the past several weeks, cities across the country have experienced significant increases in the incidences of fireworks being used at all times of the night and often directly above residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Law §11-13-1 prohibits the sale or use of aerial fireworks without first obtaining a permit from the local Fire Marshall; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous businesses throughout the state, and specifically within the City of Providence, that are currently offering aerial fireworks for sale to the public; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Business Regulation has the authority to take enforcement action against any business entity that is operating without first obtaining the proper licenses; and

WHEREAS, The use of aerial fireworks without a permit creates a public health and safety hazard as the noise affects the quality of life for local residents and the improper use of an aerial firework can significantly harm persons and property in the area; and

WHEREAS, In order to address the significant increase in illegal fireworks activity, Providence City Councilwoman, Jo-Ann Ryan convened city stakeholders to identify areas of concern. Subsequently, the Providence Chief of Police in collaboration with both the City and State Fire Marshalls established a task force dedicated to preventing the sale and discharge of illegal fireworks within the City; and

WHEREAS, The task force dedicated over a dozen law-enforcement officials to respond to calls involving fireworks and other noise-related incidents, resulting in several arrests and the seizure of numerous fireworks; and

WHEREAS, In addition to increased enforcement, the City Council also worked with Providence Police and Fire Departments, as well as the City Administration, to initiate a social media campaign focused on educating the public on the laws surrounding fireworks, how to report violators of the law, and how to assist in the identification of locations where fireworks are being discharged; and

WHEREAS, While the City of Providence has begun efforts to better manage the use of fireworks within the limits of the City, it is necessary that the Attorney General and the Department of Business Regulation recognize the seriousness of this issue and take the necessary enforcement actions against local businesses who are illegally selling aerial fireworks without the appropriate permits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby requests that the Attorney General and the Department of Business Regulation commence enforcement actions against all business enterprises that are engaged in the sale of aerial fireworks without a permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Department of Business Regulation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 2 2022
READ AND PASSED


JOHN J. IGLIOZI, PRESIDENT

Tina L. Mastroianni
ACTING CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature


Tina L. Mastroianni
Acting City Clerk