

City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 212

EFFECTIVE June 29, 2020

WHEREAS, In the past several weeks Providence has seen a drastic increase in the number of fireworks discharged within the City, often late into the night and directly over residential neighborhoods; and

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

WHEREAS, Section 9-81 of the Providence Code of Ordinances further prohibits the sale or use of fireworks within the City without first obtaining a Fireworks Permit from the Board of Licenses by filing an application that includes the name of the applicant and all locations where the fireworks will be used or sold; and

WHEREAS, It has become clear that despite the existing laws prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks within the City, there is still a great deal of confusion on how these prohibitions are enforced and who residents should contact when they are aware of fireworks being discharged in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, As we draw closer to the Fourth of July it is necessary that the City's residents are fully aware of the laws surrounding fireworks so that everyone can enjoy their summer in a safe and peaceful manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby request that the Chief of Police, the City Fire Marshall, and the Director of the Board Licenses coordinate their efforts to better mitigate the discharge of illegal fireworks within the City, and further coordinate in the creation of an outreach plan to educate members of the community on the laws surrounding the use of fireworks, how to report violators of the law, and how to assist in the identification of locations where fireworks are being discharged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby requests that the Mayor's Administration provide, on its website, a non-emergency number that constituents can call to report the use of fireworks, as well as establishments that are selling fireworks, within the City, and further create a specific category in 311 dedicated to reported fireworks violations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council hereby requests the Solicitor's office to review the existing fines set out in the City Ordinance, as well as the fines laid out by State law, to determine if there are any discrepancies that need to be addressed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be provided to the Mayor of Providence, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Chief of Police, the City Fire Marshall, the Director of the Board of Licenses and the City Solicitor.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 18 2020

READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature



Shawn Solleck
City Clerk