



# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 212

EFFECTIVE May 17, 2021

WHEREAS, In the late spring and early summer of 2020, Providence experienced a drastic increase in the number of fireworks discharged within the City, often late into the night and directly over residential neighborhoods; 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, Through the diligent efforts of the Fireworks Task Force, both through enforcement as well as public education and outreach, the City was able to make a significant reduction in the use of illegal fireworks that had been terrorizing local neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, With the summer fast approaching, and with it the increased likelihood of illegal fireworks resuming, it is imperative that the same proactive measures are taken to prevent the proliferation of fireworks within the City limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby requests that the Chief of Police, the City Fire Marshall, and the Director of the Board Licenses and City Administration relaunch the Fireworks Task Force in order to coordinate efforts to mitigate the discharge of illegal fireworks within the City, and to reinstitute the 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, 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

MAY 6 2021

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the  
Mayor's Signature

Shawn Selleck  
City Clerk