

POLICE MEMORANDUM
#14-2022

DATE: June 13, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *Hmg*

FROM: James S. May, Jr., Chief of Police *JSM/217*
Peter Rice, Lieutenant

SUBJECT: Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan for 2022. The overview will provide operational details, staffing plans and establish the Police Department's public safety strategy for the City's Fourth of July event.

BACKGROUND

The use of fireworks and fireworks complaints in the Denver metro area have significantly increased over the past several years due to the lack of fireworks shows during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the City and the Police Department (NPD) have implemented stronger enforcement strategies to mitigate fireworks activity. Additionally, over the past two years, the City has focused on a fireworks campaign that includes:

- Ordinance amendment allowing for additional enforcement capabilities
- Mandatory minimum fines
- Comprehensive communications plan
- Strategic enforcement plan

The comprehensive communications plan geared toward educating residents about the ordinance, the danger of fireworks, and the nuisance fireworks place on the community, particularly veterans and pets, was presented through:

- City website
- Social media platforms
- The Connection
- Signage
- City water bill inserts

The intention is to repeat the communication plan to include adding a tagline on all Fourth of July promotional materials to read, "Please remember, fireworks are prohibited in Northglenn," and share all North Metro Fire Rescue District safety messages on the City's social media platforms.

In 2022, COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. With coordination from all departments, the City will host its traditional large festival and fireworks display on July 4 in E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. The festival will be a large community gathering.

The Police Department will coordinate with North Metro Fire to ensure public safety throughout the event. NPD will provide traffic control in the festival area to ensure pedestrian safety. In addition, NPD will work with the Thornton Police Department near Fox Run for traffic-related concerns due to the proximity of Thornton's fireworks show. NPD will close Community Center

Drive 15 minutes prior to the fireworks show and re-open it immediately upon the show's conclusion.

NPD will use the lower portion of City Hall as a command post. It will act as a staging/rally point for any issues which may arise. NPD staff will be staggered with various start times throughout the day for optimal coverage during the busiest hours. NPD will also work with City staff to assist with lost children and medical issues.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

The Police Department will require schedule adjustments and overtime to accommodate the deployment of additional resources over the July 4 weekend. In 2021, overtime considerations for staffing City events and fireworks enforcement cost approximately \$8,088. Implementing fireworks enforcement teams during the weekend and the staffing to provide public safety during the Fourth of July event would incur similar overtime costs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. NPD will engage in the following fireworks enforcement strategies: Zero Tolerance Fireworks Enforcement teams (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) – Deploy two enforcement teams comprised of two officers each in geographical areas based on reported numbers of violations from previous years. These teams would enforce fireworks violations under Municipal Code sections 9-7-2 or 9-11-3. This provides the ability to conduct a year-to-year comparison to determine if the City and NPD's efforts impacted illegal fireworks use. The goal is to reduce the number of fireworks complaints in 2022.
2. NPD Enforcement Teams will also be utilized on July 4. However, NPD's focus will be on public safety during the Fourth of July event at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park. There will be a significant police presence throughout the day due to the large gathering of people and public safety concerns.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council Members have any questions, they may contact:

- James S. May, Jr., Chief of Police, at jmay@northglenn.org or 303.450.8967

ATTACHMENT

1. Fourth of July fireworks operational plan presentation

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022

Peter Rice

Lieutenant

303.450.8965

price@northglenn.org

Council Meeting

June 13, 2022



**CITY OF
Northglenn**

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan for 2022.

OVERVIEW

Review of Past Events

- Last year, multiple smaller gatherings at neighborhood parks, no large crowds
- COVID an issue July 2021
- 2022 event back to “traditional 4th of July” festival post-covid
- Utilizing City facilities for parking and the surrounding area, main festival E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park
- Vendors, food trucks, live music and large fireworks show to end the evening

FIREWORKS OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022

Goal: Quality Community Interaction

- Safe gathering of families at a festival event
- Fireworks show at 9 p.m.
- Community Center Drive closure during fireworks show
- Significant police presence
- Multiple officers “if needed for emergencies”
- Fireworks enforcement teams throughout the holiday weekend
- Provide traffic support prior/post fireworks

STAFFING

CONT'D

- Festival provides an opportunity for community members to gather in a central location to enjoy a City-sponsored and professionally-produced fireworks display.
- During the event, all available police resources will be utilized to ensure public safety.
- Police resources will not be available to provide the level of fireworks enforcement seen during the past two years.

STAFFING

CONT'D

- Increased officers assigned to days and swings to handle calls for service along with animal control
- Incoming grave shift officers assigned to traffic control during the fireworks show
- Officers assigned to fireworks enforcement teams
- Officers assigned early morning set up
- Teams of officers assigned to the daytime festival
- Teams of officers assigned to the festival in the afternoon and throughout the fireworks show
- Shifts will overlap

STAFFING

CONT'D

Staffing

- Officers will work with Thornton Police to manage traffic conditions in Fox Run area.
- Officers will post at all crosswalks on Community Center Drive to assist with pedestrians after fireworks show.
- Lost children will be taken to the boat house.
- Unified command with North Metro Fire for medical issues

AERIAL VIEW

CONT'D



QUESTIONS?

Peter Rice

Lieutenant

303.450.8965

price@northglenn.org

Council Meeting

June 13, 2022



CITY OF
Northglenn