

POLICE MEMORANDUM
#10-2023

DATE: June 12, 2023

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, Patrol Commander

SUBJECT: Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan for 2023, which details operational and staffing plans and establishes 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 three 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

Communications

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 while reinforcing the message that fireworks are prohibited in Northglenn and share all North Metro Fire Rescue District safety messages on the City's social media platforms.

Fireworks Show

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.

NPD will coordinate with North Metro Fire Rescue District 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 City's 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, which 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 and will also work with City staff to assist with lost children and medical issues.

Fireworks Enforcement

NPD will engage in the following fireworks enforcement strategies: Zero Tolerance Fireworks Enforcement Teams (Friday, Saturday, Sunday; June 30 through July 2) – Deploy two enforcement teams comprised of two officers each in geographical areas based on reported numbers of violations from previous years. These teams 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 NPD's efforts impacted illegal fireworks use. The goal is to reduce the number of fireworks complaints in 2023.

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.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

NPD will require schedule adjustments and overtime to accommodate the deployment of additional resources over the July 4 weekend. In 2022, overtime 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

This is for informational purposes only.

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
- Peter Rice, Commander, at price@northglenn.org or 303.450.8965

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023

Peter Rice

Patrol Commander

303.450.8965

price@northglenn.org

Council Meeting

June 12, 2023



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PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Fourth of July Fireworks Operational Plan for 2023.



OVERVIEW

Review Past Events

- 2022 event back to “traditional 4th of July” festival post COVID-19 restrictions
- Utilizing City facilities for parking and the surrounding area, E.B. Rains, Jr. Park
- Vendors, food trucks, live music and large fireworks show to end the evening



FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT

2020 Fireworks Enforcement Tickets Issued	2021 Fireworks Enforcement Tickets Issued	2022 Fireworks Enforcement Tickets Issued	2023 Fireworks Enforcement (Year To Date) Tickets Issued
92	111	20	1



JULY 4TH 2023 PLANS

Goal: Quality Community Interaction

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



STAFFING

- 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.



STAFFING

CONT'D

- 14 officers assigned to days and swings to handle calls for service
- 7 graves officers assigned to traffic control during the fireworks show
- 2 officers assigned to fireworks enforcement team
- 5 officers assigned early morning set up, 13 trainees
- 6 officers, 2 CRU, 2 Park Rangers assigned to daytime festival
- 22 officers assigned to the festival in the afternoon through the fireworks show
- Shifts will overlap



STAFFING

CONT'D

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



AERIAL VIEW OF FESTIVAL



QUESTIONS?



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