



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

Pacifica Police Department

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DANIEL STEIDLE
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

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Illegal Fireworks Social Host Ordinance “Host a Show, Pay the Dough”

Pacifica, CA- On May 22, 2017, the Pacifica City Council adopted an Illegal Fireworks Social Host Ordinance in attempt to curb rampant use of illegal fireworks in Pacifica. The ordinance is designed to hold those hosting gatherings responsible for illegal firework activity that occurs on property they own or rent.

The ordinance is a strict liability ordinance, meaning the person responsible for the property (the Social Host) is responsible for the discharge of illegal fireworks on their property. Officers do not need to prove the social host knew of the illegal fireworks discharge, but must be able to testify that the firework came from a certain property.

The ordinance also pertains to “Any person who hosts, organizes, supervises, officiates, conducts, or accepts responsibility for a gathering on public or private property.”

Additionally, if a minor is found discharging illegal fireworks, the person having care, custody or control of the minor is strictly liable for the illegal activity and subject to fine.

The penalty for a violation of the Illegal Fireworks Social Host Ordinance is \$1,000. This is an administrative fine levied by the City of Pacifica.

This ordinance is similar to a 2008 Pacifica ordinance that calls for a \$1,000 fine for anyone caught in possession of illegal fireworks. For an officer to issue a fine under the 2008 ordinance, an officer must be able to identify who possessed or discharged an illegal firework. Under the Illegal Fireworks Social Host Ordinance, an officer need not be able to identify the person committing the violation, only from which property the firework was ignited from.

Chief Steidle commented, “Illegal fireworks have long been a problem in Pacifica. We hear each year from community members who prefer to leave town for the holiday rather than listen to the illegal firework activity in their neighborhoods. Those who selfishly chose to discharge illegal fireworks show no regard for their fellow neighbors, veterans suffering from PTSD and pets, all who are sensitive to the noise associated with this illegal activity.”

All personnel from the Pacifica Police Department will be working on the 4th of July to enforce these ordinances. In addition, officers from several San Mateo County Police Departments will be in Pacifica to supplement staffing in effort make the largest impact possible on those who continue to discharge illegal fireworks in Pacifica.

The Pacifica Police Department reminds those who don't prohibit illegal fireworks on their property or at their social gatherings: "Host a Show, Pay the Dough."

Daniel Steidle
Chief of Police

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