

411 West Ocean Boulevard City Hall, Eighth Floor Long Beach, California 90802 Telephone: (562) 570-5600 Fax: (562) 570-7140 prosecutor@longbeach.gov

REPORT ON FIREWORKS COMPLAINT ACTIVITY

Dated: July 2, 2020

- (1) <u>Increase in Complaints</u>. The City Prosecutor's Fireworks Complaint public portal ("Public Portal") went live around 6:00pm on Monday, June 22, 2020, and in its first 3 days had received 145 complaints, 11 of which included some photographic or video evidence. As of 5:00pm on Thursday, July 2, 2020, a total of 307 complaints have been received, 28 of which include some photographic or video evidence.
- (2) <u>Property Owners Notified</u>. As of 2:00 pm on Thursday, July 2, 2020, the City Prosecutor's Office has sent letters to 205 individuals who have been identified as owners or tenants of property where illegal fireworks are being discharged. Of these, 55 addresses were identified by LBPD and the remainder were identified through the Public Portal. The letters notify the recipients that the discharge of illegal fireworks constitutes a public nuisance and that prosecution under Cal. Penal Code section 373a (with up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine) may commence if the public nuisance persists.
- (3) <u>Follow up</u>. Investigators in the City Prosecutor's Office continue to follow up on all complaints received from the Public Portal. A phone call is made to the reporting party the same day, or the following morning.
- (4) <u>Criminal Cases Pending</u>. As of the 2:00pm on Thursday, July 2, 2020, the City Prosecutor's Office has received 14 cases from LBPD related to the sale, possession or discharge of illegal fireworks. The first case received involved a defendant attempting to sell \$510 of dangerous fireworks in Long Beach. We expect many more cases since it typically takes 2-3 weeks to receive citations.
- (5) <u>Continuing Investigation</u>. In addition to the cases presented by LBPD, information received from the Public Portal is reviewed closely to determine if criminal filings are appropriate. In many instances, charges could be filed if the suspect's identity could be determined.
- (6) <u>Complaints of Sales</u>. For complaints regarding the illegal sale of fireworks, including advertisements for fireworks sold online, the City Prosecutor's Office continues to forward these to the Long Beach Police Department for further investigation.
- (7) <u>All Complaints Reviewed</u>. All Public Portal complaints are reviewed, including complaints that have insufficient information from which to take enforcement action (for example, statements such as, "Location of Fireworks Activity: All over Long Beach"). Complaints without specific information will be kept on file, but no further action is possible from the City Prosecutor's Office.
- (8) <u>Thank you!</u> Again, special thanks to LBPD and all those who have assisted with the Public Portal!

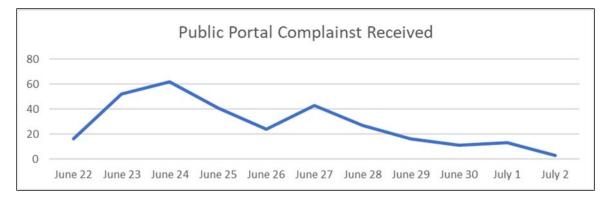


OFFICE OF THE CITY PROSECUTOR Long Beach, California

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(9) The following is a breakdown of the number of Public Portal complaints received each day from June 22 thru July 2:

June	July	July								
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
16	52	62	41	24	43	27	16	11	13	



/// End of Report ///