



**OFFICE OF THE CITY PROSECUTOR**  
*Long Beach, California*

*DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, City Prosecutor*

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 10, 2020

- (1) Complaints since June 22, 2020. The City Prosecutor's Fireworks Complaint public portal ("Public Portal") went live around 6:00pm on Monday, June 22, 2020. Since that date, as of 8:00am on July 10, 2020, a total of 524 complaints have been received, 49 of which include some photographic or video evidence.
- (2) Property Owners Notified. As of 8:00am on Friday, July 10, 2020, the City Prosecutor's Office has sent letters to 254 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) Criminal Cases Pending. As of the 8:00am on Friday, July 10, 2020, the City Prosecutor's Office has received 19 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 to be presented for filing consideration. According to one news sources, police made 23 arrests and issued 13 citations during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, and as many as 59 citations were issued in the weeks leading up to the holiday.
- (4) Continuing Investigation. In addition to the cases presented by LBPD, information received from the Public Portal is reviewed closely to determine if criminal filings are appropriate. Investigators in the City Prosecutor's Office have followed up on all complaints received from the Public Portal are reviewing photographic and video evidence. In most instances, the photo or video are evidence that dangerous fireworks (in violation of California state law) were set off, but does not provide information about identity of the person responsible. The investigation will continue for those cases with evidence to determine if criminal cases can be filed.
- (5) Public Portal Improvements. The City Prosecutor's Office has made several improvements to the Public Portal reporting process. Although complaints have dropped significantly, the office plans to keep the Public Portal open until at least the end of July to allow for additional reports to be taken. The portal can be reached via the CP website or visit: <https://cityprosecutordoughaubert.com/fireworks-are-illegal/>.



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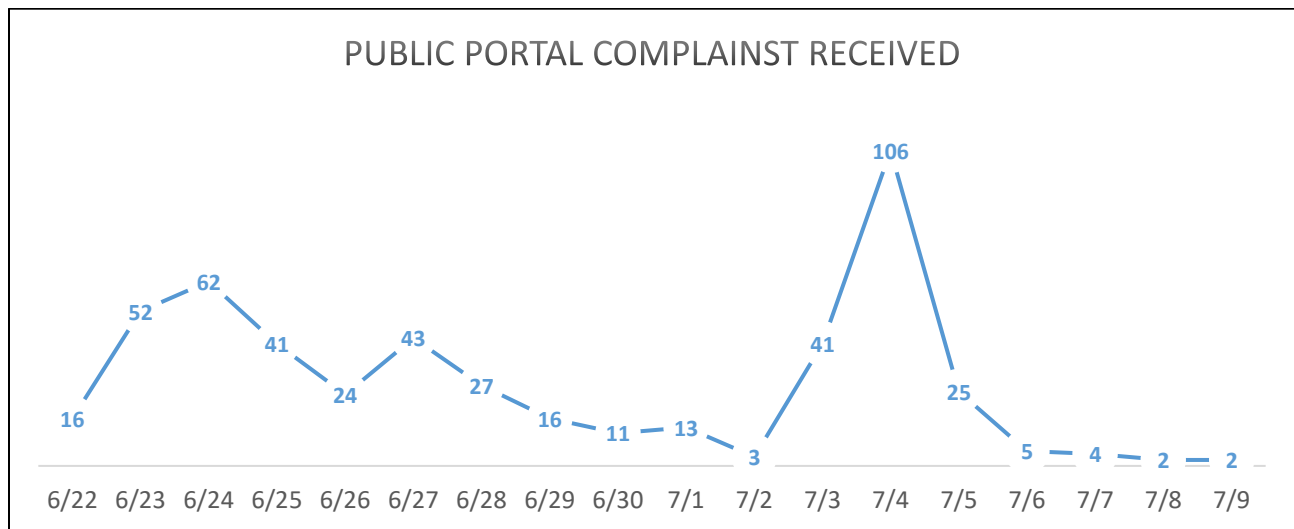
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- (6) The City Prosecutor’s Office is also accepting “Victim Impact Statements” from any person who wishes to share how dangerous and illegal fireworks have impacted their lives over the past several weeks. The statement is primarily to help judge understand the serious nature of fireworks, but can also be used to inform policy makers and others. Statements should be sent to [prosecutor@longbeach.gov](mailto:prosecutor@longbeach.gov).
- (7) The following is a breakdown of the number of Public Portal complaints received each day from June 22 thru July 10:

Number of Complaints, June 22, 2020, through July 9, 2020:

<u>6/22</u>	<u>6/23</u>	<u>6/24</u>	<u>6/25</u>	<u>6/26</u>	<u>6/27</u>	<u>6/28</u>	<u>6/29</u>	<u>6/30</u>	<u>7/1</u>	<u>7/2</u>	<u>7/3</u>	<u>7/4</u>	<u>7/5</u>	<u>7/6</u>	<u>7/7</u>	<u>7/8</u>	<u>7/9</u>
16	52	62	41	24	43	27	16	11	13	3	41	106	25	5	4	2	2



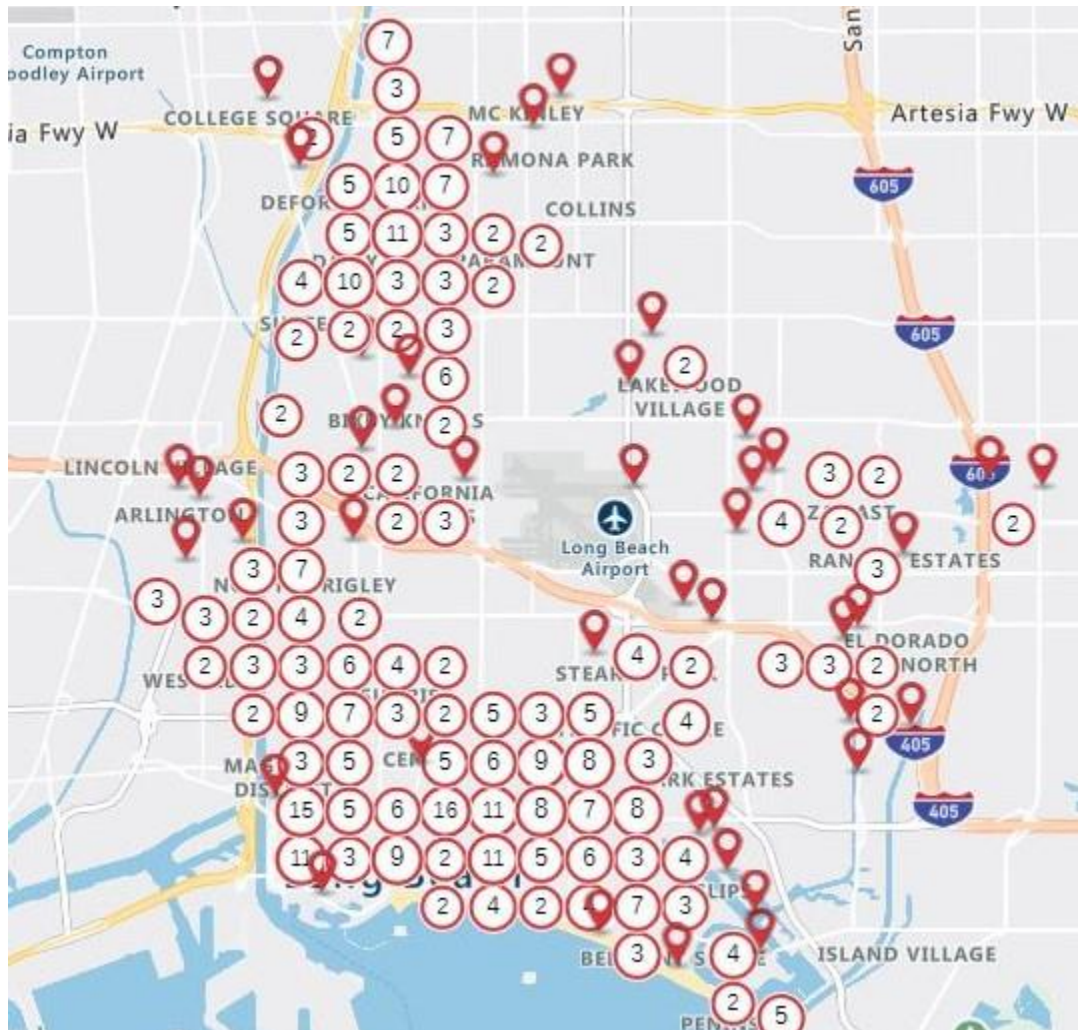
- (8) On the following page is a map showing the locations in the city where fireworks cases have been reported via the Public Portal.



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