



REPORT ON FIREWORKS COMPLAINT ACTIVITY

2021

Dated: June 14, 2021

- (1) Complaints since January 1, 2021. The Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office opened the Fireworks Complaint Public Portal ("Public Portal") in 2020, with the Public Portal going "live" at 6:00 pm on June 22, 2020. Therefore, this time last year there were no complaints. Since the Public Portal has remained active since last year we have been able to receive complaints, and from January 1, 2021, through today, the Public Portal has received a total of 49 complaints, 2 of which have included some photographic or video evidence.
- (2) Increase in Police Activity. We have observed an increase in activity from the Long Beach Police Department in 2021. The City Council approved additional funding for enforcement, and we are already receiving citations from LBPD. Typically, citations are presented to the City Prosecutor's office within 2-3 weeks of being issued by LBPD. We have already received 5 citations from LBPD for incidents that occurred on or before May 19, 2021. To give one example, in 2020 the first undercover purchase of fireworks by LBPD occurred on June 12, 2020, but we have already received one undercover purchase of fireworks this year, occurring on May 31, 2021. This operation resulted in the purchase of 194 lbs of dangerous fireworks.
- (3) Investigation of Portal-Generated Criminal Complaints. Each of the 49 people who submitted Public Portal complaints were contacted by an investigator the same day or the next day after submitting the complaint. The two incidents where photographs or video were presented are currently under active investigation. If the suspects can be identified and the evidence confirmed, those cases will be filed with the Superior Court as misdemeanors.
- (4) Property Owners Notified. Based on Public Portal complaints received this year, the owners of 6 properties were identified. The City Prosecutor's Office has sent notice to the individuals identified as owners or tenants of property 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. As with last year, we expect these letters to have an impact in fireworks activity since last year a number of landlords indicated they appreciated being contacted and that they were taking immediate corrective action with their tenants.



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Long Beach, California

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- (5) Public Portal Improvements. The City Prosecutor’s Office continues to look for ways to improve the Public Portal reporting process. The City of Long Beach’s Technology and Innovation Department is currently working to modify the City’s Go Long Beach app to integrate seamlessly with the the City Prosecutor’s Public Portal. In the meantime, anyone can file a complaint via the City Prosecutor website or visit: <https://cityprosecutordoughaubert.com/fireworks-are-illegal/>.
- (6) Victim Impact Statements. In response to a call from the City Prosecutor’s Office for “Victim Impact Statements” from persons wishing to share how dangerous and illegal fireworks have impacted their lives, we received a total of 19 statements. The statements are primarily intended to help judges understand the serious nature of fireworks, but our office will share them with police and city policy makers. Statements should be sent to prosecutor@longbeach.gov. [*We wish to especially thank those residents who took the time to send Victim Impact Statements, they were well-written, heartfelt, and powerful – they will make a difference in court. – Doug*]

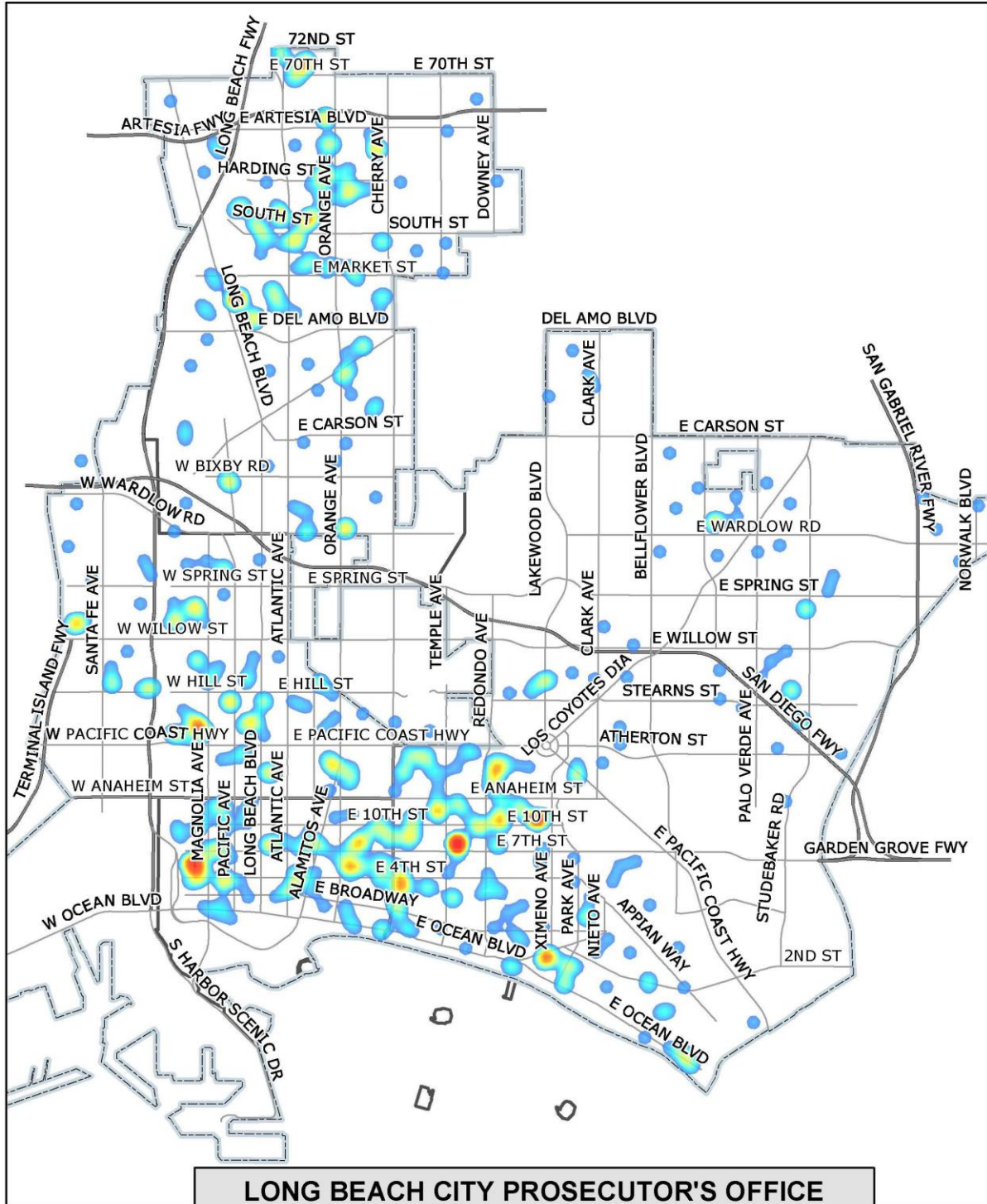
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**LONG BEACH CITY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
2021 CITIZEN COMPLAINTS - FIREWORKS
DENSITY MAP - HOT SPOTS [BY ZIP CODE]**

A. COOPER
LBPD CRIME ANALYST

05/16/2021