



Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC")



September 21, 2020
Via Email

The Honorable Paul Krekorian

Councilman, City of Los Angeles, Council District 2
200 N. Spring Street, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Illegal Fireworks Usage. Request from Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC") Board

Dear Councilman Krekorian,

Safe greetings to you and your family. Over the past few years, excessive illegal fireworks usage plagued many Los Angeles neighborhoods from Memorial Day to the 4th of July. This year, illegal fireworks usage before and during this period was especially prevalent. Fireworks are a public health and safety hazard. They release pollutants into the air, cause fires that destroy buildings and trees, and caused 12,900 injuries (25% of them children under 15) in the US in 2017 per the US Consumer Product Safety Commission.¹ Our Board received numerous stakeholder complaints about ineffective enforcement of illegal fireworks laws. GVGC's Public Safety Committee reached out to our Community Police Advisory Boards for guidance on effective and efficient ways to address illegal fireworks usage.

At its September 14, 2020 Board meeting, GVGC's Board adopted and approved three motions originated by our Public Safety Committee intended to address the epidemic of illegal fireworks usage in our service area. These motions respectfully request that you, as our Councilman:

- Work with the Los Angeles City Council to implement a **Fireworks Social Host Ordinance** (link in preceding bold text) similar to one in force in Kern County. It "*imposes liability on property owners or tenants for allowing the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling or use of illegal fireworks on their property.*"
- Request the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee to reactivate and restore Council File 17-1421-S1 and Council File 14-0818-S5 Motion to previous legislative status, and
- Request the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee to obtain records from the Los Angeles City Attorney indicating how many citations were issued, how many arrests were made and prosecuted, and how many cases were dismissed for illegal fireworks violations since January 1, 2017.

Addressing illegal fireworks usage is a paramount public health and safety issue, and a solution can be straightforward. Please expedite these efforts to fully prepare for next spring and summer's cyclical increases. As always, members of our Board are ready to assist your office in this matter.

Thank you for considering our request.

Andrea Schmitt

Andrea Schmitt
Chair, GVGC Public Safety Committee

Mickey Jannol

Mickey Jannol
President, GVGC Board

cc: Karo Torossian, Chief of Staff, karo.torossian@lacity.org
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¹ <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/sports-recreation/firework-safety#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20United%20States,to%20prevent%20firework%2Drelated%20injuries.>