



**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
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## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: May 2, 2017

### Subject

2017 Independence Day Fireworks Display.

### Recommend Action

Provide staff direction on implementing a fireworks display on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If approved, authorize the appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for fireworks, City staff to support the event, and Santa Clara County Sheriff and Fire staff to ensure safe operations.

### Background

A fireworks display was the highlight of the Community's Independence Day celebration for many years, ceasing in 2015 as a result of both draught conditions and safety concerns at the former launch site at Cupertino High School. Staff has identified an alternative site at Hyde Middle School, 19325 Bollinger Road, to launch a 20-30 minute display.

### Discussion

- A Fireworks Display can serve as a deterrent for independent or illegal fireworks displays.
- Fireworks displays generally feature two (2), three (3) and four (4) inch shells. Due to the size of the launch sight, Hyde Middle School will accommodate no greater than three (3) inch firework shells, limiting the display to no higher than 300 feet. This dramatically reduces viewing opportunities. The Fire Marshal recommends that any display at Hyde is limited to 3 inch shells.
- Falling embers, like any fireworks display should be contained within a fallout zone which requires 70 feet in all directions per inch of shell. This is dependent on wind. The on-site County Fire Department representative will be present to monitor the area.
- Sedgwick Elementary school at 19200 Phil Ln, Cupertino has been identified as the best and only large public viewing area. Staff tested viewing opportunities

with balloons launched to approximately 275 feet and are not confident that other public spaces such as Cupertino High School or Creekside Park, in the general area can serve as appropriate launch sights. Viewing from Sedgwick is excellent.

- In the past, the City offered viewing areas at Sedgwick Elementary School, Cupertino High School and Creekside Park, accommodating approximately 10,000 community members. This year, viewing would be limited to only approximately 2,500 at Sedgwick. Community members would be encouraged to walk to the school as parking is very limited. Off-site viewing may accommodate many more people.
- The safe operation of this display will require street closures on both Miller and Hyde Avenues. Hyde Avenue would be closed early morning on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Miller will be closed, possible from Bollinger to Phil Lane. Miller Avenue closure will present some limited viewing as well. Hyde would be restricted to only home owners. Actual Street Closure locations will be determined by both the Sheriff and Fire Departments.
- Permits for the use of the two school sites and the necessary approvals from the Fire Department are being requested.

#### Fiscal Impact

The action will require a budget adjustment of \$100,000.

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Reviewed by: Jaqui Guzmán, Deputy City Manager

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager