

Should ALL Fireworks be Banned From the Harbor?

September 4, 2024



In the Aftermath of the July 4th illegal fireworks tragedy, nearly killing a toddler and injuring several more along South Beach, ensuing discussion and solutions continue to be sought.

The Crescent City Harbor District (CCHD) brought up the agendized item at its recent meeting.

CCHD president Harry Adams first words, “I want to ban all fireworks from the harbor. It’s an accident waiting to happen.” Commissioner Rick Shepherd expediently followed with 100 percent concurrence with Adams. “We can do something about it. There’s only one way into the Harbor and we should let visitors know no fireworks is allowed within the Harbor.” Both commissioners cited imminent fire peril to ban all fireworks within CCHD jurisdiction. Shepherd cautioned vessels have as much as a thousand gallons of fuel on each craft.

A recent 2X2X2 (City, County, Harbor) Ad Hoc Meeting at the City Sewer conference room acknowledged the serious lack of law enforcement to deploy during July 4th activities. Harbormaster Tim Petrick lamented, “fireworks is part of our (Del Norte) culture. Changing that culture will take time.”

Enforceability remains a quandary. The jurisdictions of Harbor, City and State remains obscure.

Commissioners also discussed charging for parking fees within Harbor property. Fees collected would help remove fireworks debris and provide additional security.

The dilemma of how to address a repeat of the tragedy incident was palpable. The Ordinance to consider involves similar Ordinance for contiguous jurisdictions.

The 2X2x2 Ad Hoc will continue to report to the full City Council, Harbor Commission and Board of Supervisors, of progress made and exchange of different interventions.

Some supported a complete ban of all fireworks, some felt some flexibility should be afforded for safe and sane interventions. All commissioners agreed the fireworks dilemma, illegal and safe'sane cannot be ignored.

The political fireworks continues.