

City Vows to Protect the Public In Wake of Fireworks Tragedy

July 24, 2024



Mayor admits we dropped the ball.

The Crescent City Council underscored its priority to keep the public safe, at its Monday evening Council meeting.

City Manager Eric Wier initiated the presentation by lauding “ one of the most beautiful July 4th Celebrations, ever. Wier praised the Chamber of Commerce and the scores of City Staff and volunteers who contributed to this successful event.

He then referenced the huge crowds swelling the population many times over attending the iconic Fireworks Show from the Jetty. Wier cited illegal fireworks activity has dramatically increased.

Crescent City Fire Chief Kevin Carey delivered the details of the tragic accident on South Beach, injuring 14 and gravely injuring three year old William Lupan. Chief Carey described the illegal fireworks explosion as "...one of the most chaotic things one can imagine." Carey praised his team as trained and prepared with two minute expedient response time. Carey reported 20 firefighters and emergency workers were on site. Del Norte Ambulance responded immediately in transporting victims, including Baby Billy to Sutter Coast.

Mayor Blake Inscore shared with the public his experience in driving City streets July 4th and his observing illegal fireworks on City streets throughout the City. Inscore shared his attempts to enforce illegal fireworks ordinances were often met with strong opposition from traditional practices. Inscore cited efforts from 2012 to administratively address those who practice illegal fireworks, supplanting the use of the Courts in addressing this growing problem. In past years, Inscore would insist, "We need to crack down on illegal fireworks and was met with some in the community telling the Mayor, "you're not from here. You don't understand our traditions."

Councilors all agreed, public safety is the priority.

Councilors voted to initiate action from the 2 by 2 committee to meet with County, Harbor, Cal Fire, Fire Chief Carey, Police Chief Richard Griffin, Sheriff Garrett Scott in developing strategy and tactics in addressing illegal fireworks. Inscore underscored the importance of comprehensive collective efforts.

The Mayor announced he and Councilor Kelly Schellong will serve on the Ad Hoc 2X2 Committee.