

No Fireworks Ordinance for the Harbor

March 27, 2025



Enforceability is Major Challenge

Last month, the Board of Harbor Commissioners considered a draft ordinance which would regulate the possession, sale, use, storage and display of fireworks within the Crescent City Harbor District. This Ordinance, modeled after the State Fire Marshal's recommendations, was intended to enhance public safety, prevent property damage and establish clear enforcement mechanisms.

Continuing the discussion, Commissioners have decided to forgo the Ordinance and sent back to the Board of Supervisors a memorandum of understanding to request the Harbor work on the newly passed County Ordinance.

The key concern expressed by the commissioners was the ability to enforce such a regulation, effectively. Concern was raised regarding the Harbor's available resources and training necessary for enforcement, particularly the citing individuals who may be intoxicated, could elevate the risk of physical altercations.

A ban on all fireworks, even State-approved Safe 'N Sane was considered and rejected by the Commission.

The Harbor has met and plans to meet with with the Board of Supervisors and agreed to send a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the County allowing the Del Norte Sheriff deputies, Probation and Code Enforcement officers to enforce any such ban with the authority and resources necessary to handle citations safely.

On a 3-2 vote, commissioners decided to assess a \$5 parking assessment into the inner harbor July 4 and allow Safe'N Sane approved fireworks. The Commission also decided to surrender all collected parking fees to the County in support of the MOU.

Commissioners Evans, Shepherd and Vice Chair Nehmer voted AYE. Commissioners Schmidt and Chair Weber opposed any fireworks within the inner harbor July 4.

In other business, the Commission has forwarded the draft agreement to the Elks for operation and management of the now-closed and vacant Redwood RV Park. As part of the Agreement, all Elks RV'ers would be afforded a 20 percent discount on all Elk patrons at the Redwood RV. The Elks trustees has approved the agreement, clearing the way for a full vote by the Elks Lodge membership, immediately. A full vote approval is expected.