

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 09/07/2020 11:10 AM

Council File No: 17-1421

Comments for Public Posting: I have lived in my Arleta home for 53 years and I can attest to the fact that 2020 was the absolute worst year ever for illegal fireworks. The loud, explosive M80's and mortars started in late April and continued well past the 4th of July. The sudden, excessively loud noise they produce assaults people with PTSD; terrifies domestic pets and wild creatures, who fear and try to escape them; and harms the environment with unnecessary pollution. A large number of my San Fernando Valley neighbors suffered along with me, and we agree that we will NOT tolerate another year of such abuse. This is a very serious quality-of-life and mental health issue and I insist that "illegal fireworks" be established as a subcommittee of the Public Safety Committee. I also believe that, at the state level, the penalty for discharging explosive fireworks should be enhanced so that this crime is classified as "battery". State Senator Bob Archuleta has issued a Call to Action against illegal fireworks at the state level and Assembly woman Wendy Carrillo will re-introduce her fireworks bill AB2740, which was delayed by COVID19. I strongly encourage the Los Angeles City Council to recognize the detonation of illegal, explosive fireworks as the public safety issue it is, and join with Senator Archuleta (senator.archuleta@senate.ca.gov) in coming up with concrete solutions between now and January. In addition, local law enforcement MUST be given the tools to adequately respond to the overwhelming number of illegal fireworks complaints they receive. The current process is unworkable and must be better organized and supported. We are tax-paying homeowners and we are NOT getting the service and protection for which we have paid.