



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 6/12/2012

Prepared By/Phone Number: Debbie Ties – 854-6472

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Sam Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REGULATION OF FIREWORKS IN UNINCORPORATED TRAVIS COUNTY.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Hershel Lee

Danny Hobby

Cheryl Aker

Commissioners Court

TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Travis County Commissioners Court

From: Hershel Lee, Travis County Fire Marshal

Date: June 12, 2012

Subject: **Consider and Take Appropriate Action on the Regulation of Fireworks in Unincorporated Travis County.**

Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks – the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, Independence Day also includes tragic events resulting from fireworks use.

The U.S. Fire Administration reported that in 2010, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,600 people for fireworks-related injuries. 73 percent of these injuries occurred between June 18 – July 18. Children under 15 years old accounted for 40 percent of the estimated injuries. An estimated 900 injuries were associated with firecrackers. Of these, an estimated 30 percent were associated with small firecrackers. An estimated 1,200 injuries were associated with sparklers and 400 with bottle rockets.

Travis County has had welcome rainfall early in the year. This has resulted in an accumulation of grass and other small fuels. These small fuels are drying very rapidly. We are again encouraging those that choose to use consumer fireworks to do so in a safe manner by following these fireworks safety tips:

1. Read and follow manufacturer's recommendations.
2. Use only with adult supervision.
3. Do not make homemade fireworks.
4. Never light fireworks in metal or glass containers.
5. Never throw fireworks at another person.
6. Have a means of extinguishing small fires such as a garden hose.
7. Never give fireworks to small children.
8. Dispose of "dud" fireworks in a bucket of water. Never attempt to relight "duds."
9. Never mix alcohol use and fireworks.

With recent wildfires in mind, do not use fireworks around tall grasses or other small fuels. Neighbors and property owners will be very nervous. Consider your neighbors before choosing to use consumer fireworks and explore the possibility of attending a public display instead.

Thank you.