

Item 4



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 6/11/2013

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

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

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. 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:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Hershel Lee

Danny Hobby

Commissioners Court

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

HERSHEL LEE, FIRE MARSHAL
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(512) 854-4621, FAX (512) 854-6471



MEMORANDUM

To: Travis County Commissioners Court
From: Hershel Lee, Travis County Fire Marshal
Date: June 11, 2013
Subject: **Regulation of Fireworks in Unincorporated Travis County**

The upcoming fireworks sales season begins on June 24, 2013 and ends at midnight July 4, 2013.

Travis County Commissioners Court, under Local Government Code 352.051 (a)(1), may regulate the sale of fireworks under the following conditions:

- The KBDI must be 575 or greater on average in the county, as determined by Texas Forest Service.
- This regulation only applies to "restricted fireworks." Restricted fireworks are rockets with sticks and missiles with fins.
- The action must be taken prior to June 15, 2013.

Travis County had a KBDI reading of 220 on June 3, 2013. It is anticipated that the KBDI will be between 400 and 500 during Fireworks sales season, unless we receive more rainfall.

Conditions are such, at the writing of this memo, that Travis County Commissioners Court may not use Local Government Code to restrict the sale of fireworks. Travis County Fire Marshal's Office will monitor the conditions relevant to outdoor fires and fireworks. We will communicate any significant change to the County Judge and Commissioners Court.

Further regulation of fireworks is possible only through the declaration of a local disaster.

If consumers choose to purchase and use consumer fireworks, we encourage them to follow all manufacturer recommendations. Fireworks safety guidelines are available on the Travis County Fire Marshal's website.

We recommend attending Public Fireworks Displays rather than using consumer fireworks.

Thank you.