



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: 12/10/2013

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: RECEIVE BRIEFING REGARDING
FIREWORKS IN UNINCORPORATED TRAVIS COUNTY FOR THE
DECEMBER 2013 SALES SEASON.**

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Hershel Lee

Danny Hobby

Jim Connolly

Commissioners Court

TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



HERSHEL LEE, FIRE MARSHAL
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MEMORANDUM

To: Travis County Commissioners Court

From: Hershel Lee, Travis County Fire Marshal

Date: December 6, 2013

Subject: **Receive Briefing Regarding Fireworks in Unincorporated Travis County for the December 2013 Sales Season.**

The December retail fireworks season begins December 20 and runs through midnight January 1.

A County's Commissioners Court may regulate fireworks locally using local Government Code (LGC) 352.051 or Government Code 418.108.

Per Local Government Code 352.051, the KBDI (Keech Byrum Drought Index) must be at 575 on average in the county for Commissioners Court to regulate restricted fireworks. Commissioners Court must take action by December 15 to regulate restricted fireworks, using LGC 352.051. Restricted fireworks are rockets with sticks and missiles with fins.

Government Code 418.108 would allow the County Judge to declare a local disaster and regulate fireworks beyond LGC 352.051.

At the time of the writing of this memo, the KBDI is 16 on average in Travis County.

A common misconception of the public is that an Outdoor Burn Ban also regulates fireworks. Burn Bans do **not** regulate fireworks.

Conditions are such that regulation of fireworks is not available to Commissioners Court at this time.

The Fire Marshal will monitor conditions and use press releases to encourage the public to be safe if they choose to use consumer fireworks.

If public displays are available, we encourage people to attend public displays rather than using consumer fireworks.

Hershel Lee
Fire Marshal