

Citizen Letter re proposed Fireworks Ordinance

Chairman Lindgren,

I have read the reviewed minutes from the August 11th TOB meeting. I was unable to attend the meeting due to being out of town. The fireworks ordinance proposal to add a “responsibility” section for owners of rental properties where ordinance violations may occur is very troubling to say the least. Ordinances related to upkeep or operation of the physical property that are directly under the control of the property owner(s) can and should be enforced. Violations that are essentially behaviors or actions perpetrated by renters or non-owners have no bearing on the property owner. Punitive action for the illegal actions of persons is most readily and appropriately handled by law enforcement with the offending party at the time of infraction, not against a property or business owner at a later date. The time has already passed and the matter devolves into a “he said, she said” exercise in futility.

This notion of taking punitive action regarding a fireworks ordinance violation against the owner of the property is as absurd as me being held accountable for the commission of a crime perpetrated by others while staying at my business. As a business owner, I can only legally and ethically rent to a competent adult. As a competent adult said renter is responsible for their actions not me. Taken to the extreme of absurdity, I would be compelled to have signatures stating customers are aware of, agree to, and abide by all; Local, State, Tribal, and Federal ordinances, laws, statutes and edicts. Cumbersome and unworkable to say the least.