

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE _____

To vote NO on lifting the ban on fireworks in Huntington Beach is to choose public safety over money.

Multiple Grand Juries recommended bans on personal fireworks because legalizing them increases the use of more dangerous illegal fireworks. This happened in our city. In 2010 and 2011 prior to lifting the ban a total of 50 pounds of illegal fireworks were confiscated, during the two year trial period when personal fireworks were legal, 150 pounds of illegal fireworks were confiscated.

When personal fireworks are legal, those setting off the more dangerous illegal fireworks hide among those setting off the legal ones making enforcement more difficult.

The Orange County Grand Jury also stated that once a ban is lifted and then reestablished it can take three years for the illegal firework activity to return to levels the community experienced when all fireworks were banned.

Only seven of the 34 cities in Orange County allow the use of personal fireworks. No coastal city from Ventura to San Diego allows the use of personal fireworks. Huntington Beach is a destination for over 100,000 visitors on the 4th of July. Crowds and personal fireworks do not mix.

Don't be surprised when you start to receive multiple mailers from the pro side of this issue. The fireworks companies recently spent over \$100,000 in the primary election in Anaheim. Don't be surprised when the mailers tout the amount of money groups can make in a few days. That is true, thousands can be made in a short time by selling fireworks, but at what cost?

Both our Police Chief and Fire Chief advised the City Council not to lift the ban. When choosing between money and public safety, we choose public safety and urge you to vote NO on Measure _____.

Councilwoman Jill Hardy

Councilwoman Connie Boardman