

From: [Contact Council](#)
To: [Lao, Elena](#); [Campfield, Lisa](#)
Subject: FW: June 28, 2023 Council GLS--Fireworks Ord. 23-057
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:12:37 AM
Attachments: [2023-06-28 Lider Comments to County Council.pdf](#)

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Snohomish County Council
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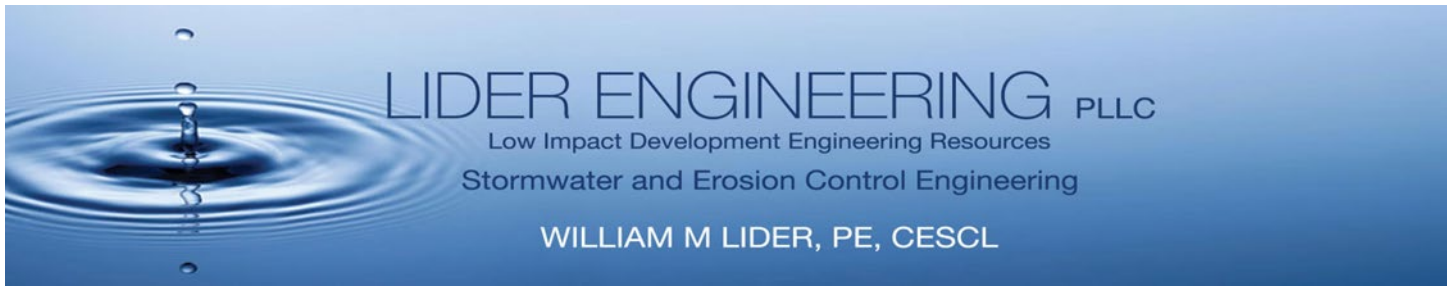
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Subject: June 28, 2023 Council GLS--Fireworks Ord. 23-057

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Attached are my comments for your consideration on fireworks Ord. 23-057 at the 9:00 am June 28th General Legislative Session of the County Council.

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William Lider Public Comments to County Council
June 28, 2023

I spoke at the June 20 Planning Committee meeting, along with a number of other concerned citizens in support of Ord. 23-057, where the Council chose to delay for another year banning the sale of fireworks in Snohomish County, where their use is already illegal use. We were all shocked by the Council's vote to delay and study this ordinance. As I stated in my previous communications to the Council, no documents were provided to me on past public records requests on fireworks for responses or citations by the Sheriff Adam Fortney's Department. A delay looking for more records is meaningless, as the records either do not exist; or if they do, then there has been a serious violation of the Public Records Act by the County for withholding public records to my previous request.

The Council can vote today to take emergency action pass and pass Ord. 23-057 banning the sale of fireworks effective June 28, 2024 in south County, where their use is already prohibited. If the Council fails to act today, the sale of fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish County cannot be halted until the year 2025, two years from now.

I again request that the Council vote today and each Councilperson go on record as either supporting or opposing the sale of fireworks where their use is already illegal. Because there is no enforcement, fireworks use was greater in 2022 than at any time since the fireworks ban became effective in 2020. Either:

1. Vote on an emergency ordinance to ban fireworks sales effective June 28, 2024; or
2. If the Council is unwilling to vote on an emergency ordinance to halt fireworks sales in 2024, then it should raise the fine for using fireworks that are already prohibited in south County to a gross misdemeanor with fines of:
 - a. \$1,000 for the first fireworks citation; and
 - b. \$5,000 for any subsequent fireworks citation.

Increased fines for fireworks use should take effect immediately as a deterrent for the illegal use of fireworks in south County.

Raising the fireworks citation fine does not require the 1-year delay to take effect under State law, because the use of fireworks is already prohibited in south County. A higher fine for illegal use might give the Sheriff Adam Fortney's Department some incentive to enforce the law, rather than treating it as a barking dog complaint. An emergency ordinance is warranted given the current fire danger in Snohomish County and because currently there is no enforcement of the fireworks ban by the County. Fireworks use is greater now, than it was before the ban took effect in 2020. Fireworks vendors tell their customers that is ok to use fireworks, because they know that Sheriff Fortney does not enforce this law.

One year's notice is more than enough time for the churches to find alternative ways to legally raise money, rather than profiting off fireworks sales that can only be used illegally. It is the height of hypocrisy to allow the sale but not the use of fireworks in my neighborhood. Fireworks sales begin at noon today, where they are already illegal to use. Please do something today!