

From: Ginny Enstad <ginnyenstad@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:58 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: No fireworks!

Please do whatever is necessary to eliminate the use of fireworks by unauthorized private parties on July 4 or any other day. These explosions are not a sign of love of country but an excuse to make a lot of noise to the detriment of wild and domestic animals and their owners. I can't enjoy Independence Day because I must provide aid and comfort to my dogs who are terrified by the loud booms. I read with dismay the reports of property and human damage done by fireworks every year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Virginia G Enstad
Edmonds

From: Brenda <brendalee131@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:34 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Fireworks

Please please please ban the sale of fireworks In snohomish county. My Fourth of July holiday is trauma every year by neighbors who insist on having hours long fireworks display. The big ones. The house shakes and vibrates and smoke comes in even though the windows are shut tight. We can't leave while it's happening because I'm terrified he is going to burn my house down, and I have a dog and two cats who are also terrified and I can't abandon them. I call the police every year and beg for help but no one comes. We know fireworks are dangerous and cause massive amounts of damage. They are illegal here for a reason! Why on earth would we sell them? Why? Please please please ban them. Thank you. Brenda Elston

Sent from my iPhone

From: Julie Winchell <winchell@wavecable.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 10:52 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Proposes fireworks ban

Dear County Council,

Please move forward on your proposed ban of the sale of fireworks in areas where it is illegal to set them off.

As a resident of Northern unincorporated Snohomish County, I would urge you to make illegal the use of any fireworks in the County.

Our neighborhood sounds like a war zone for the weeks surrounding the 4th of July and New Year's Eve. We don't feel like we can leave our home due to the possibility of stray fireworks lighting our woods on fire.

These safety concerns, along with the negative environmental impacts and noise pollution, should be reasons enough to ban the use of fireworks.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,
Julie Winchell
22920 19th AVE NE
Arlington, WA

From: hilltop.locust@frontier.com
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:20 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: THE COUNCIL'S SHAME: THE FIREWORKS ORDINANCE! from Mickie Gundersen

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak. For fast reading, I am going to list my comments.

1. Since about 2002 homes in South County have been allowed to be built 10 feet apart. We are crammed in here! Fire can spread fast here.
2. Homes are now built 5 feet apart with many townhomes and apartments connected, no space in between, even worse!
3. A forest fire in this area could run from I-405 to Kenmore along the Swamp Creek corridor and further west and north.
4. Fire departments are not equipped to fight a fire of the magnitude that could happen in south county.

3. THERE WAS A LEGITIMATE CITIZEN VOTE PUT ON BY THE COUNTY. THE NO FIREWORKS SIDE WON!

4. There was a hearing. I attended. During public testimony most citizens didn't want fireworks allowed for these reasons:
 - a. fire to home and property,
 - b. noise disturbing pets, babies and veterans,
 - c. toxic chemicals and plastics left streets and yards to run off into streams,
 - d. death of birds, and
 - e. injury to persons using fireworks.
 - f. much destruction to the environment.

5. People speaking **in favor** of fireworks were of two categories
 - a. Those from fireworks companies selling fireworks **for profit, and**
 - b. those from non-profit charities selling fireworks **for profit, mostly churches.**

6. After public testimony was closed, Terry Ryan, then Council president changed the law to state that:

- a. **Fireworks would not allowed** to be set off in the Urban Growth area, but that:
- b. **Fireworks could still be sold!**

7. The public was deceived by this action! Since public testimony was closed we had no recourse to speak. We felt:
 - a. Deceived by our representatives
 - b. Just aghast! How could this happen in our democracy - there had been a vote!
 - c. At a loss as to what we could do to correct this deception
 - d. Just downtrodden knowing what kind of mess we would have to deal with in our neighborhoods!
 - e. **Just totally let down by our council, we knew fireworks would continue to be set off and no one would do anything about it.**

8. The result of this deception has resulted in:
 1. Fireworks still being sold and set off - no consequences
 2. Fires still happening
 3. Personal injuries and loss of property still happening
 4. The loss of sleep, as in some areas fireworks go on all night in the UGA
 5. No response from the Sheriff's office
 6. No fines being given
 7. Neighbors being pitted against neighbors
 8. People still having to tranquilize their dogs and cats.
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 10. The great loss of birds (I don't think anyone knows about this.)
 11. Toxic chemicals washing into our wetlands and streams and soaking into our land
 12. Toxic plastic washing into our wetlands and streams and soaking into our land

13. A tremendous amount of toxic smoke released into our air.
14. A lack of support for the fireworks ban by our local fire station.

Please correct this wrong that has been perpetrated on the citizens of South County. Please represent the vote of the citizens. **Please vote to not allow fireworks to be sold in the South County Urban Growth Area or any other UGA.**

Please do not connect this issue with the lack of fireworks laws in the rural parts of Snohomish County. This is a completely different set of circumstances. We voted separately. We are ready. The rural parts of the County need to start to take this up. We need to finish what we started already!

Please help non-profits find a way to fund raise money that doesn't cause so much harm to others. Please realize that those who profit from the manufacture of fireworks need to now find another way to make a living, one that isn't so harmful.

PLEASE ADVOCATE FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR LAND, HUMANS, ANIMALS, PLANTS AND AIR BY STOPPING THIS CRAZINESS AND NOT PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNMITIGATED CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AND THE EARTH.

VOTE TO STOP THE SALES OF FIREWORKS IN THE URBAN GROWTH AREAS, AN CONTINUE TO NOT ALLOW THE SETTING OFF OF FIREWORKS IN THE URBAN GROWTH AREAS.

Sincerely,

Mickie Gundersen
President
Hilltop-Locust Community Group
1126 Lawton Road
Lynnwood, WA 98036-7122

From: Linda Gray <lgn899a@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 4:19 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: In support of Micky's letter

Dear Council Members - I am in total support of Mickie Gunderson's letter below. Thank you - Linda Gray, Snohomish County Resident

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to speak. For fast reading, I am going to list my comments.

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VOTE TO STOP THE SALES OF FIREWORKS IN THE URBAN GROWTH AREAS, AN CONTINUE TO NOT ALLOW THE SETTING OFF OF FIREWORKS IN THE URBAN GROWTH AREAS.

Sincerely, Mickie Gundersen President, Hilltop-Locust Community Group, 1126 Lawton Road
Lynnwood, WA 98036-7122

From: Cathy Ferbrache <cathy.1stld@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 7:50 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Ban Fireworks

Dear Councilman Mead,
Please ban the sale of fireworks where it is illegal to set them off.

I'm in the City of Bothell in Snohomish County. Although the sale of consumer fireworks in Bothell is illegal, this does not prevent neighbors from purchasing them elsewhere and setting them off next door to me and 64 acres is second growth forest. I live next to North Creek Forest the home to fish bearing streams, migratory birds, coyote and deer and an occasional bear. The threat of fire due to drought conditions adds to the necessity to not only ban the sale but acknowledge that explosives in neighborhoods are not welcome. Use the authority you have to end this out of date ritual, by first BANNING the sale of fireworks where it's illegal to set them off.

Cathy Ferbrache
2520 251st Street SE
Bothell, Wa 98021
Sent from my iPhone

From: DeBoo Design <deboodesign@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:39 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Fireworks Sale Ban South Sno Cnty

Snohomish County Council,
Please vote to ban fireworks sales in South Snohomish County. This area has become too densely populated for safe discharge. The wooded areas are sometimes tinder dry and prime for an huge fire. Selling fireworks where they are not legal to discharge is very concerning. It causes confusion and disputes between neighbors. Please finish the job the residents in this area asked you to do and eliminate the sale of these noisy fire hazards.

Thank you,
Jean Clinch
425 210-6682
Sent from my iPhone

From: dknrousseau3@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:37 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: STOP SALE OF FIREWORKS

To: Snohomish County Council

From: Debra Jo Rousseau

Please stop the sale of fireworks in the South Snohomish County Urban Growth area. Also, those setting off illegal fireworks (purchased elsewhere) in this area need to be fined.

*In addition to the consequences and disturbances listed below in Mickie Gundersen's letter there is one more. **The blasts and booms from fire works are very disturbing to our war veterans.***

Please vote no.

Thank you.

*Debra Jo Rousseau
21714 Locust Way
Lynnwood, WA 98036*

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Sincerely,

Mickie Gundersen
President
Hilltop-Locust Community Group
1126 Lawton Road
Lynnwood, WA 98036-7122

From: jen.mckeirnan@me.com
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:35 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Vote to stop fireworks in south county

Dear County Council,

I understand that you are voting on fireworks on April 2nd. I live in the Lynwood/Bothell neighborhood.

Please vote to stop the sale and setting off of fireworks in south county. Every year it sounds like a war zone around my house, all night long. I find fireworks remnants in my yard the next day. With the hot weather, I am concerned about my house burning down and my pets are always stressed out. What should be a fun celebration to go watch the multiple city fireworks that are safely put on around the area becomes an unnecessarily stressful July 4th living here with people setting off fireworks in my neighborhood.

Jen McKeirnan
20219 12th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

From: Marjorie Fields <mvfields@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 6:17 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: ban fireworks sale

How ridiculous is this? We say use of fireworks is not allowed but we let them be sold. There is a reason for laws against setting off fireworks — lots of them. But apparently those laws mean nothing. As long as they are available for sale, people (for some reasons) will set them off.

Do the smart thing and use your authority to stop fireworks sales.

Marjorie Fields
Edmonds

From: Brenda <brendalee131@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 5:59 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Banning the sale of fireworks

With all due respect, please ban the selling of fireworks in communities where they are illegal. I can't think of any logical reason to allow the selling of an illegal substance, especially one that is so damaging to people, pets, property, and the environment. Please do not make it easy and tempting for people to be able to break the law, while shopping at Costco. And please support law enforcement during the fourth of July holiday as they HOPEFULLY issue tickets to offenders, and consider creating a database of chronic offenders. Thank you very much

Brenda Elston
Edmonds, Wa.

From: Doug Ewing <douglas.ewing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 5:09 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: fireworks restriction

Dear council members,

I am in favor of this county making the detonation of all fireworks except by permit to governmental entities illegal. We all know the downside of this recreation. I know it from my dog's reaction and from picking up all the chemical-laden trash the next day. We all know that fireworks are not only detonated on one day a year. Where I live it is almost a month.

I will not live to see this ban. BUT....could you not at least ban the sale of fireworks where detonation is illegal? It would be a start.

I thank you,

Doug Ewing
360 809-0509

From: Linda Gray <lgn899a@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 4:46 PM
To: Low, Sam; Contact Council
Cc: Peterson, Strom; Twiford, Taylor; cc: Chan, David; Somers, Dave J; Hynes, Leslie; Kate Lunceford; Marjorie Fields; Eric Adman; Streamkeeper, Tom; James Walsh; William Lider; fultondl@gmail.com; Nelson Kurt (knelson@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov); Joan Thomas; dennis hill; Deborah L Wetzal; Tom Campbell; Joan Smith; Everett Herald Newshound; Thompson, Joshua; Cat Gustafson; Tina Stewart; windsorparkNeighbors; Mickie Gundersen
Subject: Re: Ban All Fireworks in Snohomish County effective 7/4/26

Dear Council members - I am resending my email from last year to you. It gets worse every year due to climate change, and this year, it's predicted that the fire season could last longer, with our area being much drier due to El Nino. Why can't we address this issue like King County did a few years ago? Humans are the main cause of fire, so why encourage this danger by allowing fireworks? The Snohomish County Executive has the authority today to ban fireworks until a permanent ban is in place. We voted by 52% to have a complete ban; why weren't we provided with one? King County passed their ban with just one hundred signatures on a one petition. We actually had an advisory vote. We are all facing exorbitant insurance rates because of fire danger. Please address this now. Thank you - Linda Gray, Unincorporated Snohomish County

On Fri, Jun 23, 2023 at 3:16 PM Linda Gray <lgn899a@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Snohomish County Council Members - Please create an ordinance banning fireworks in **all of Snohomish County** that will go into effect on July 4, 2026 As a King County Council member states, "...People in unincorporated King County deserve the same protections as those living in cities." Those of us in Unincorporated Snohomish County deserve the same.

[What to know about firework bans in Washington | KOMO \(komonews.com\)](#) "The investigators and police officers no longer have to look and say, 'is this something that is legal or not legal?'" Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority Capt. Kyle Ohashi said. "It's all illegal now so that makes the job for the police and fire departments a little bit easier."

[All fireworks banned in unincorporated King County starting next year | KOMO \(komonews.com\)](#) *"It is past time for King County to do what most cities and parks have already done," he said. "People in unincorporated King County deserve the same protections as those living in cities."*

The following from NextDoor gives a good summary of what we deal with each year and how King County addressed it -

https://nextdoor.com/p/fR_K3YB6fWQ4?utm_source=share&extras=NjU5ODAyNQ%3D%3D

Carol Welch North Wellington • 22 Oct 21 "Discharge of fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish Co. On Saturday evening 10/16 a (newer) neighbor decided to discharge fireworks while I was bringing my 3 horses into the barn for the night, at 8:30pm. Their backyard is separated from my barn by a very narrow backyard of another neighbor. My horses were just about to enter the barn, with me directly behind the last horse, when the "show" started. In their surprise and panic, I was knocked to the ground but avoided being trampled by rolling under a

fence. In the short breaks between discharges, I managed to get them into their stalls (it helps that they knew there was hay waiting), went outside to the front of the barn and literally screamed at the top of my lungs in-between discharges to STOP IT NOW. They didn't stop. My horses were very scared, this was far louder and closer than they are used to, not to mention I do a lot of prep prior to EXPECTED fireworks (on 7/4 and 12/31) to mitigate noise and visuals (including tranquilizers). I quickly drove to the neighbors, and interrupted their party (yes, with my hair on fire....). The repercussions of this event is 1) my younger horse whose stall window (un-shuttered at the time) was exposed to the visual explosions, will not willingly go into her stall now, and panics when she is in it, (sadly a place where she used to feel the safest); and 2) I have a black-purple bruise and knot the size of a grapefruit on my hip. I could have been very badly hurt, or worse (BTW, I'm 65yrs old, have had horses for 53yrs, and at this home specifically for the past 28+yrs). ...”

“...And when trying to soothe a petrified, sweat-soaked, 1200lb horse with my arms around his neck, trust me.... it's hell. I haven't enjoyed a July 4 friends and family event at my home in 20yrs, as the pyro has gotten worse and worse. Celebrate the 4th? Not at my home....only celebration is when it stops. “

[Sylvia Schultz](#) [Cottage Lake](#) [22 Oct 21](#)

“Gosh, that was so dangerous to you and your horses. I'm so sorry that happened. You may already know, for unincorporated King County, our council passed a ban on fireworks this year to take effect in 2022. Two individuals shooting off mortars and rockets for hours, causing harm and terror thru our neighborhood of 100s of homes, full of families with new babies and seniors, pets and a few horses, tired and healing people, and many working diligently from home. Testimony during the hearings was chilling: the phrase used by some for their neighborhood was "war zone," a home burned down (will not say what happened--too horrible--google if you want), and fire chiefs accounted for a cost per fire district of \$1m annually of your tax dollars to respond to injuries and fires. Call your elected officials now. Call candidates for your council and fire service to ID who WILL defend your neighborhood from an explosive ordinance that one senior fire chief literally testified were "IEDs" (improvised explosive devices). It is a tradeoff -- risk your safety, pets and stock, and home and private property and create an avoidable public expense OR allow a few callus individuals their "fun" and support profit-seeking fireworks dealers. I'm proud of our county officials who voted for this ordinance. Not Lambert though, my council member, she voted against it.”

Thank you - Linda Gray, Unincorporated SC

From: Twiford, Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:49 PM
To: Hickey, Lisa
Subject: FW: Ban All Fireworks in Snohomish County effective 7/4/26

From: Debbie Wetzel <debbieleewetzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Linda Gray <lgn899a@gmail.com>
Cc: Low, Sam <Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Peterson, Strom <Strom.Peterson@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Twiford, Taylor <Taylor.Twiford@co.snohomish.wa.us>; cc: Chan, David <dchan@southsnofire.org>; Somers, Dave J <Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Hynes, Leslie <lhynes@southsnofire.org>; Kate Lunceford <kurlykate888@gmail.com>; Marjorie Fields <mvfields@me.com>; Eric Adman <snokingwatershedcouncil@gmail.com>; Streamkeeper, Tom <Tomm@streamkeeper.org>; James Walsh <jamesrwalsh@outgun.com>; William Lider <bill@liderengineering.com>; fultondl@gmail.com; Nelson Kurt (knelson@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov) <knelson@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov>; Joan Thomas <savebothell@outlook.com>; dennis hill <dennishill229@gmail.com>; Tom Campbell <tomcampbell108@gmail.com>; Joan Smith <joan.a.smith@gmail.com>; Everett Herald Newshound <newstips@heraldnet.com>; Thompson, Joshua <Joshua.Thompson@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Cat Gustafson <cathgust@hotmail.com>; Tina Stewart <tstewart@nsuch.com>; windsorparkNeighbors <windsorpark@googlegroups.com>; Mickie Gundersen <hilltop.locust@frontier.com>
Subject: Re: Ban All Fireworks in Snohomish County effective 7/4/26



CAUTION. This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Good afternoon, everyone - I stand with Linda Gray on this issue.

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The following from NextDoor gives a good summary of what we deal with each year and how King County addressed it -

https://nextdoor.com/p/fR_K3YB6fWQ4?utm_source=share&extras=NjU5ODAyNQ%3D%3D

[Carol Welch](#) North Wellington • 22 Oct 21 “Discharge of fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish Co. On Saturday evening 10/16 a (newer) neighbor decided to discharge fireworks while I was bringing my 3 horses into the barn for the night, at 8:30pm. Their backyard is separated from my barn by a very narrow backyard of another neighbor. My horses were just about to enter the barn, with me directly behind the last horse, when the "show" started. In their surprise and panic, I was knocked to the ground but avoided being trampled by rolling under a fence. In the short breaks between discharges, I managed to get them into their stalls (it helps that they knew there was hay waiting), went outside to the front of the barn and literally screamed at the top of my lungs in-between discharges to STOP IT NOW. They didn't stop. My horses were very scared, this was far louder and closer than they are used to, not to mention I do a lot of prep prior to EXPECTED fireworks (on 7/4 and 12/31) to mitigate noise and visuals (including tranquilizers). I quickly drove to the neighbors, and interrupted their party (yes, with my hair on fire....). The repercussions of this event is 1) my younger horse whose stall window (un-shuttered at the time) was exposed to the visual explosions, will not willingly go into her stall now, and panics when she is in it, (sadly a place where she used to feel the safest); and 2) I have a black-purple bruise and knot the size of a grapefruit on my hip. I could have been very badly hurt, or worse (BTW, I'm 65yrs old, have had horses for 53yrs, and at this home specifically for the past 28+yrs). ...”

“...And when trying to soothe a petrified, sweat-soaked, 1200lb horse with my arms around his neck, trust me.... it’s hell. I haven’t enjoyed a July 4 friends and family event at my home in 20yrs, as the pyro has gotten worse and worse. Celebrate the 4th? Not at my home....only celebration is when it stops. “

[Sylvia Schultz](#) Cottage Lake 22 Oct 21

“Gosh, that was so dangerous to you and your horses. I'm so sorry that happened. You may already know, for unincorporated King County, our council passed a ban on fireworks this year to take effect in 2022. Two individuals shooting off mortars and rockets for hours, causing harm and terror thru our neighborhood of 100s of homes, full of families with new babies and seniors, pets and a few horses, tired and healing people, and many working diligently from home. Testimony during the hearings was chilling: the phrase used by some for their neighborhood was "war zone," a home burned down (will not say what happened--too horrible--google if you want), and fire chiefs accounted for a cost per fire district of \$1m annually of your tax dollars to respond to injuries and fires. Call your elected officials now. Call candidates for your council and fire service to ID who WILL defend your neighborhood from an explosive ordinance that

one senior fire chief literally testified were "IEDs" (improvised explosive devices). It is a tradeoff -- risk your safety, pets and stock, and home and private property and create an avoidable public expense OR allow a few callus individuals their "fun" and support profit-seeking fireworks dealers. I'm proud of our county officials who voted for this ordinance. Not Lambert though, my council member, she voted against it."

Thank you - Linda Gray, Unincorporated SC

--

I remain,
Deborah Wetzel
206-261-0941

From: nadine.shanti <nadine.shanti@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 9:52 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Ordinance NO. 23-057

Re: discussion this morning to ban the sale of fireworks in areas where their use is already prohibited in South County

My name is Nadine Shanti and I am a resident of Snohomish County. In the past I have enjoyed fireworks to celebrate the fourth of July. This was BEFORE I truly understood the problems associated with their usage. The fires that have been caused by poor choices of individuals setting off fireworks in increasingly dry summers in our area are extremely concerning. I do not own any house pets, but I know firsthand of residents having to tranquilize their animals in order to get them through these celebrations. Some children are upset by the noise, but their parents are loathe to subject their children to tranquilizers.

My recent viewing of Seattle's New Year's Eve celebration marked a turning point for me. The smoke and air pollution was very evident in the portion of the event that was dedicated to fireworks. The laser presentation is a much more environmentally sound presentation. I realize that the Seattle production is a large scale presentation and we are speaking about individual usage here but it drives home the point that fireworks are counter intuitive to protecting air and water quality. That debris in our watershed areas of Snohomish County is destructive to the health of our numerous streams.

In addition to all of this evidence, the council really needs to deal with the issue of "Why we are selling something in areas where that usage is banned." I am on a heavily forested lot with Great Dane Creek running through it. People buy fireworks in areas where the usage is not allowed and then they come to neighborhoods where the residents don't want them and pollute the air, the streams and create NOISE pollution. There are more environmentally safe ways to celebrate our democracy.

Please stop selling fireworks in the areas where their usage is banned. It just doesn't make sense to encourage people to break the law or set off fireworks in areas other than where they live.

Thank you

Nadine Shanti

Nadine.shanti@gmail.com

From: Shannan Moran <shannanmoran1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 10:45 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Please Approve Ordinance 23-057, relating to fireworks; amending Snohomish County Code Section 30.53A.710

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am writing today to share my support for Ordinance 23-057, relating to fireworks; amending Snohomish County Code Section 30.53A.710. I have recently learned of the proposed Ordinance 23-057 and strongly urge you to approve the motion to approve that will be brought forth at today's meeting. I am a long time Snohomish County Resident, and feel this is a great start to ensure public safety in our County and show respect for our veterans who have served on the front lines. If you don't feel this is a true issue, then I urge you to go sit with a combat veteran on this day, or talk to the families of the injured or those who have lost their homes to this unnecessary "celebration".

Please don't get me wrong, I love our country and believe that public displays put on safely by cities around our county have their place. I am happy to see these continue and will support them, because they are planned for safety, monitored and only run for a short duration of preset time. However, with more housing density and larger populations, not to mention PTSD, I believe the personal risks are just too great to continue with the sales of fireworks for public use.

There are many other ways for organizations to raise money.

Kind regards,

Shannan Moran

From: hilltop.locust@frontier.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 12:33 PM
To: Contact Council; Burke, Lori; Somers, Dave J
Subject: Council's Ho Hum attitude about FIREWORKS

Dear Council members,

I just signed off the Zoom webinar where you discussed fireworks. I couldn't figure out how to sign in so I could speak. I want to say that I am greatly disappointed at the seemingly "ho hum" attitude that I saw today. Councilman Low said something like, the subject of fireworks comes up now and then. This was totally dismissive of our plight.

When people shoot off fireworks in my neighborhood, I spend the whole time worrying about fire! I live in the UGA one mile west of the intersection of Filbert Road and Floral Hills cemetery. I live 1000 feet from Swamp Creek but am up on the hill. Much of this area is still heavily forested, which makes the problem very real and scary.

What we have here are houses five to ten feet apart. There are about 150 homes around my 3.5 acres of forest. I am **TERRIFIED** when people shoot off fireworks! The worst offenders are those who drink and light off fireworks. I have asked them to stop, but they don't. One of my neighbors rockets exploded about 3 feet above my patio. It left a burn mark on the patio even at that height. I was in the house and saw it out the window. This is why I can't go outside on the 4th of July! There needs to be consequences for this kind of law breaking.

I have to spend the whole 4th in the house. It's just awful. I can't go anywhere as I have to monitor my property for fire. It is very stressful. I am 82 years old and have lived here for 62 years. Shouldn't I be protected from such great fear in my older age? I hate the 4th of July!!! It is truly like a war zone during the 4th. How sad is that?!

There are 23 houses that back up to my property. It is a nightmare! If there is a fire, it could burn all up and down the corridor all the way to Kenmore and under or over I-405 which is about 1/4 mile from here. I'm not sure the people who live in the 17 homes behind my property on 12th Avenue would have access to get out if there is a fire, because of the way the road is set up. It's not just me that is at risk.

Don't we want trees to do all the good things trees do? Don't we want to protect homes and life? Don't we want little old ladies like me not to have to have to deal with so much stress?

Come On! You know that fireworks are a horrible thing in this crowded society! You know what happened in California with the fires! I just don't want to see the "Ho Hum" attitude that I saw today. I don't want you to pander to those who make a profit from fireworks and vote for you when you need to stand up and say "No more Fireworks. We are too crowded to continue this practice!

Please, please, please. Stop the sale of fireworks in the South County UGA. Actually, fireworks should not be allowed anywhere in our County. Many cities are banning fireworks. Do we not care what happens to our homes and forests and citizens in south county?

Oh my gosh! **THIS IS A BIG DEAL!** Please treat it as such! Please take action and stop the sale of fireworks in the South County Urban Growth Area at this time!

Mickie Gundersen
Concerned citizen and property owner/tax payer for 62 years in Snohomish County and
Very Active Citizen for the good of our County for the last 35 years, at least.

From: BRUCE A JOHNSON <clownjuggler@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Ban the Sale of Fireworks

Snohomish County Council Members

We once again dread the approaching Fourth of July and all the noise of fireworks surrounding us.

The use of fireworks, but not their sale, was banned in unincorporated Snohomish County.

We attended the hearing on the use of fireworks. We were surprised that while the ban of the use of fireworks, as approved by the voters, was passed, the council decided to still allow the sale of fireworks. What is the logic of this? Why can people sell products that their customers cannot use?

We believe that we were deceived and have lost trust in our County Council members.

The current situation encourages people to ignore the laws.

The people who are selling fireworks do not want the public to know that they cannot be used. The Refuge Church on unincorporated County Land between Lynnwood and Brier sells fireworks in their parking lot. The use of those fireworks is banned in their neighborhood. All of the adjacent cities to the church have banned the use and sale of fireworks. None of the customers at the church can legally use what is sold there. Last year members of the church were observed stealing from individual yards signs provided by the Fire Department reminding people that the use of fireworks is banned. When the pastor of the church was confronted about it, he replied, "I know that it is illegal to take yard signs from private property, but I am not going to do anything to stop members of my congregation from doing it. If we left the signs up, people would not shop at our stand."

We understand that the church is required to post a sign notifying potential customers that the use of fireworks is banned. The Refuge Church does not do that.

We know that a ban on the sale of fireworks must be passed now in order to take effect in 2025 due to the policy that a ban cannot be passed after the Fourth of July because many sellers place their order for next year's stock on that date.

Please act to end this illogical encouragement to break the law. Ban the sale of fireworks. Those who sell them have other methods of fundraising that is not as destructive.

Bruce Johnson

Carole Richardson

1602 Locust Way

Lynnwood WA 98036

From: Debbie Wetzel <debbieleewetzel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 2:46 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Fireworks

I support Mickie Gunderson's position on this matter. Thank you.

--

I remain,
Deborah Wetzel
206-261-0941

From: Dunn, Megan
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:52 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: FW: fireworks

For the record

Megan Dunn | *Snohomish County Councilmember, District 2*
O: (425) 388-3494 | megan.dunn@snoco.org
Pronouns: she/her/hers

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From: Laurie Cooper <lcoop96@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 11:49 AM
To: Nehring, Nate <nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Dunn, Megan <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Low, Sam <Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us>; Peterson, Strom <Strom.Peterson@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: fireworks



CAUTION. This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello,

I strongly support banning the sale of fireworks in areas where they are banned. Anything to cut down on fireworks use.

Laurie Cooper
Edmonds

From: John Patterson <johnandcindipatterson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: FW: Fireworks regulation in SW Snohomish County, Re Ordinance 23-057

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I see there is new activity regarding Ordinance 23-057 regarding banning the sale of fireworks in Snohomish County. I had the exchange below with Megan Dunn last year regarding this proposed ordinance. I was looking at the public testimony attached to the meeting details but did not see my correspondence included. I note there was a deadline of July 18 for feedback regarding this issue, so not sure why my feedback was not included. Perhaps it was not forwarded to the council. Regardless, I am forwarding that correspondence to assure that my point of view is provided for consideration during discussion of this issue. I am re-pasting my comments here so they are first and foremost in this email chain:

I would like to provide some voter feedback on the sale and use of fireworks in unincorporated Southwest Snohomish County. I have read the county website regarding fireworks and I did not see any information there regarding public feedback or the decision making process regarding the regulatory ordinances governing fireworks. I saw a recent social media post describing Proposed Ordinance 23-057 attributed to you. This prompted me to contact you regarding this issue.

I will state up front that I am in favor of the sale and discharge of fireworks in this region. Clearly we have differing opinions on the subject. I don't expect to change your mind. However, I would like to take the opportunity to bring up some points for consideration by you and the rest of the council as well.

My first point is that there is no obvious avenue for public feedback. I think the public deserves to at least have an opportunity to comment. What I would really like to see is a public vote on such regulation. At one point there was preliminary work done to introduce an ordinance for vote and a call for Pro and Con representatives to provide a statement. But that was scrapped and the Fire Marshall made a decree without consent of the public.

My second point is that every time the subject comes up, it is an all or nothing proposition. Why is there never a middle ground considered? Why not offer a partial ban for aerial fireworks such as mortars and cakes, and explosives like M-80s and larger? Then we could at least still enjoy fountains and other fireworks less prone to starting fires or causing harm.

My last point is that there could be better age restrictions on the sale of fireworks, say 18 and older. Maybe that is already in place but it seems that many times I see firework related incidents and they are connected with juveniles.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Regards,
John Patterson

From: Dunn, Megan [mailto:Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us]
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:18 AM
To: johnandcindipatterson@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Fireworks regulation in SW Snohomish County

Hello John,

Thank you for your input and respectful dialogue related to fireworks. I appreciate that you shared your views and your concerns. I have a few small corrections and wanted to share an update on where we are in this process. We have not passed this ordinance and would not do so without a public hearing and opportunity for residents to provide comment.

As you may know, it is illegal to set off [fireworks in the Southwest Urban Growth Boundary](#), however, at this time the *sale* of fireworks is still allowed. Recently, [Proposed Ordinance 23-057](#) was introduced by Councilmember Peterson to also prohibit the sales of fireworks in “no fireworks areas” where the use of fireworks are already prohibited. I am hopeful that this change will improve enforcement of the existing ban. I shared on social media about calling 911 and firework safety, but I’m not sure what you are referring to about a post attributed to me about ordinance 23-057.

I am supportive of making this change and I support this Ordinance but councilmembers had questions when this was discussed at the most recent Planning and Community Development Committee and the Ordinance did not move out of committee to be given a public hearing and final vote. We did hear comments about a modified ban that you mentioned and councilmembers asked to see examples of this, which is another reason why it did not move forward to allow time for research. So, council is considering this as an option or compromise and I would support this as well if it can be enforced properly.

This Proposed Ordinance will be discussed further at our July 18 Planning and Community Development Committee. Our code requires a public hearing and two week notification period and state law requires a one year delay before implementing any changes related to fireworks, so this timeline would put a ban on sales into effect late summer of 2024 and not until July 4th of 2025. Until this time, our Fire Marshall currently has the authority to ban fireworks during times of high fire risk.

You shared concerns about public input and transparency which is a value we share. The original ban was passed in 2019, prior to my term on council, and it was based on an advisory vote on the ballot that year, which showed strong support for a fireworks ban in south county. At the meeting on the 18th, our staff have put together a timeline of all the changes related to fireworks since the 1950s, that document will be in his staff report and it includes how/why the changes have occurred.

The proposed changes would require a public hearing, the agenda and topics are posted in the local paper and we require notice and open public comment during the hearing. We allow comment in person or remotely via zoom. Or written/mailed and emailed comment by email the full council at contact.council@snoco.org. If you have suggestions for improving transparency or notice I would be happy to propose changes in these areas to remove barriers or improve noticing.

For more information about fireworks in Snohomish County, please feel free to visit the [County’s fireworks page](#) or the [South County Fire fireworks informational page](#).

I’m happy to answer any questions. Our agenda and staff report for the July 18th meeting will be posted on Friday by 4 pm, I’ll try to forward this to you once I get it.

Best,

Megan Dunn | *Snohomish County Councilmember, District 2*

O: (425) 388-3494 | megan.dunn@snoco.org

Pronouns: she/her/hers

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From: John Patterson <johnandcindipatterson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:15 PM
To: Dunn, Megan <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Fireworks regulation in SW Snohomish County

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello Megan,

I would like to provide some voter feedback on the sale and use of fireworks in unincorporated Southwest Snohomish County. I have read the county website regarding fireworks and I did not see any information there regarding public feedback or the decision making process regarding the regulatory ordinances governing fireworks. I saw a recent social media post describing Proposed Ordinance 23-057 attributed to you. This prompted me to contact you regarding this issue.

I will state up front that I am in favor of the sale and discharge of fireworks in this region. Clearly we have differing opinions on the subject. I don't expect to change your mind. However, I would like to take the opportunity to bring up some points for consideration by you and the rest of the council as well.

My first point is that there is no obvious avenue for public feedback. I think the public deserves to at least have an opportunity to comment. What I would really like to see is a public vote on such regulation. At one point there was preliminary work done to introduce an ordinance for vote and a call for Pro and Con representatives to provide a statement. But that was scrapped and the Fire Marshall made a decree without consent of the public.

My second point is that every time the subject comes up, it is an all or nothing proposition. Why is there never a middle ground considered? Why not offer a partial ban for aerial fireworks such as mortars and cakes, and explosives like M-80s and larger? Then we could at least still enjoy fountains and other fireworks less prone to starting fires or causing harm.

My last point is that there could be better age restrictions on the sale of fireworks, say 18 and older. Maybe that is already in place but it seems that many times I see firework related incidents and they are connected with juveniles.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my feedback.

Regards,
John Patterson

From: Nicole Michalski <jeremyandnicolem@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Unincorporated Snohomish Country Fireworks Ban - A HARD NO!!!

Dear Council Members,

I wanted to write in and voice my concern for yet another right of ours that is on the chopping block, fireworks. For hundreds of years this country has celebrated its freedom each and every year by getting together with family and friends, sharing a meal and then lighting off fireworks to celebrate our nation's independence.

I find it sickening that due to a few loudmouths and folks who object, that the voice and freedoms of thousands can be silenced. Additionally, statistics in WA State are very clear. After years of having bans (some areas now for decades), fireworks are still purchased illegally and shot off in those areas and the outright bans do absolutely nothing to impact fires and other problems. Think rationally for a moment, do you really think it's your right to ban small little fountains, cones and even sparklers from families? It's ridiculous and even folks in CA have a right to celebrate with fireworks and they are a state prone to wildfires. Prohibition with alcohol didn't work and neither does outright banning fireworks either. People are simply going to visit the Indian Reservations and buy MUCH more unsafe fireworks that aren't regulated from those places.

Mark my family and I down as a hard NO to banning fireworks. We will be watching each and every person who votes against allowing fireworks and we're letting our friends and family know as well. Washingtonians have reached a level of being sick and tired of what to do, so please tread lightly and don't take away another one of our freedoms.

Thanks,
Jeremy M.

From: David Freeburg <davidjfreeburg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:59 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: I am opposed to your vote to ban fireworks in unincorporated areas called the Urban Growth Area (UGA)

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am reaching out this morning as it has been brought to my attention that you are considering a ban on fireworks in unincorporated areas called the Urban Growth Area (UGA).

As a long time resident of Snohomish County and consumer of fireworks, If fireworks become expressly prohibited for sale, possession and discharge within Snohomish County, it will still be possible for those citizens of Snohomish County who have “traditionally celebrated the birth of our nation with the discharge of fireworks” to continue this tradition. The difference however, is these citizens may now elect to purchase fireworks from the federally governed tribal neighbors which sell fireworks not meeting the “safe and sane” standard currently upheld by those retailers selling fireworks within Snohomish County. In addition, the thousands of dollars raised every year in tax revenues for Snohomish County by the sale of fireworks, would be distributed to neighboring federal lands and counties (Not to mention the local non-profit organizations that operate local retail operations would lose out on their longstanding annual fundraisers).

In lieu of banning fireworks and avoiding a real solution to the problems and concerns of those citizens who have appealed to the council to ban the use of fireworks in order to “provide them with firework safety protection,” I propose we educate those citizens of Snohomish County who traditionally discharge fireworks, in the proper discharge and safety precautions required to protect all citizens of Snohomish County. After focusing on safety in the construction industry for multiple years in Olympia, it is very clear, the answer is not to remove privileges from the citizens and hope the concerns will resolve with time, but as seen in the construction industry over the past several decades, we need to address the issues head on with education.

I would be more than willing to volunteer and lead a committee focused on the education of the citizens of Snohomish County in the proper discharge and safety considerations when celebrating the birth of our nation. A few ideas for example include classes held several times each day during the operation of retail fireworks locations within Snohomish County which will permit and certify those citizens who would like to continue their tradition. This would allow only those willing to be educated to purchase common fireworks, providing real safety protection for all citizens of Snohomish County.

Please consider what is really needed for a remedy to the concerns of those citizens which have already appealed to the council for the ban of fireworks. Traditions still exist just like construction as a result of education and certification. Your time and consideration is very much appreciated in advance. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,
Dave Freeburg
206-234-9283

From: mike.dahlstrom@frontier.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:03 PM
To: Contact Council
Cc: mike.dahlstrom
Subject: July Fourth

Dear Council members,

Please seriously consider a ban on personal fireworks within the County borders. They are a hazard, causing fire, injury, noise detrimental to Veterans and pets, not to mention those of us who enjoy peace and quiet. Fireworks are spectacular event in a managed venue, not on the street.

Kind Regards,

Michael Dahlstrom
11018 33rd Dr SE
Everett, WA 98208

District 5

From: Laura Ferrel <ferrels@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 4:38 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Fireworks

As we look forward to summer, my family and I urge the council to ban firework sales in unincorporated snohomish county.

It is ludicrous that people are able to purchase fireworks but then it's illegal to set them off in the same area?!? Please exercise common sense and keep the firework displays to the experts. We are so tired of the noise, mess and danger this holiday poses to our neighborhood.
Thank you

Respectfully,
The Ferrels in Bothell

From: 1951palmer@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 4:49 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Banning sale of fireworks in unincorporated areas in Snohomish county

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

In my neighborhood outside the Lynnwood city limits there are still tons of fireworks going off. In fact last year wasn't very different from all the past 35 years. Why make buying something that is illegal to use so easy? It makes no sense to sell something that is illegal to use in our area. There's stands in 2 separate church parking lots 2 miles in opposite directions from my house.

Fire is the worst danger and everything should be done to protect the citizens of our county.

I hope you will look at this problem and do the sensible thing.

Thank you,
Pamela Pipe

From: Joyce Evers <jamevers@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Contact Council; Somers, Dave J
Subject: Banning Sales of Fireworks - Unincorporated Snohomish County

I recently received the Fire District's newsletter and saw a reference to fireworks. I appreciate the efforts taken to ban discharging fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish County but additional steps are needed. When nearby cities banned fireworks, unincorporated Snohomish County became the "go-to" place to discharge fireworks even though we also have a ban for discharging fireworks. It's time for the County Council to **ban discharging fireworks entirely** and also **ban the sale of fireworks** in unincorporated Snohomish County for many reasons.

- Enforcement of the law for discharging fireworks is extremely difficult due to personnel shortages as well as the area of coverage. Catching violators is non-existent and with the interurban trail running through the area makes it even more difficult to apprehend offenders. The penalties if apprehended should be substantial. Considering the amount potential offenders pay for purchasing extravagant fireworks, the fines are small dollar amounts. **The Council should consider banning the discharging of fireworks entirely.**
- By allowing sales to occur in the unincorporated Southwest Snohomish County, a wrong message is being sent to the public--if it can be purchased in the area, it can be set off in the area. No matter the attempts to educate the public, it still sends a wrong message. People who are thrilled to discharge fireworks will travel miles to purchase so why not make it less convenient and **remove sales entirely** from the immediate neighborhoods in the County.
- In this time of climate friendly concerns for our environment, we need the County Council to address both discharging and sale of fireworks. Even though sale of fireworks is allowed by law during a specified window of time, it doesn't stop the purchaser from discharging fireworks.--it actually encourages it. The air quality from the time the fireworks stands open until days after the 4th of July is unacceptable. With the upcoming threat of wildfire season, air quality impacts and impact on responders, we need to do what we can to help the situation and controlling sale and discharge of fireworks is just one component.
- The impact of taxpayer funded resources (i.e., police, fire, and medical personnel) being used to address complaints, put out fires, and treat injuries can be reduced by banning fireworks discharging and sales. These responder system resources are already dealing with job stresses, workloads and lack of sufficient personnel.
- It's an overall safety issue of the community residents—personal property, injuries, Veterans with PTSD, mental health issues, caregivers, pets, and many other health concerns (asthmatics, COPD patients, etc.). We need to do whatever we can to keep our residents safe.

It's encouraging to hear that some cities (i.e., Kent) are banning fireworks and putting in place a drone show to be enjoyed by their residents. Why not use technology to have a display, be climate conscientious, and help our police, fire and medical personnel? Last year, the City of Seattle combined a firework display with a drone show and experienced complaints from the viewing public that the discharging of fireworks ruined the drone show due to smoke-filled skies, and preventing the full enjoyment of the drone display. That alone is a

testament to the air quality impact that is experienced for days afterward and it comes at a time in summer when air quality is already compromised by wildfires in Washington State and Canada.

There will be those who will argue it's their right to freedom of speech, but you can display your freedom and celebrate our country's independence with flags, ceremonies, parades and drone shows without the use of fireworks that destroy property, lives and the air we all breathe. There will also be the Native Americans who contend the sale of fireworks is a substantial source of revenue for them. They already have a means of diversified revenue (casinos) and tax exemptions offered by both Washington State and the Federal government. Instead, they could host the drone shows on the reservation and charge parking and admission fees. Cities like Lynnwood, Everett and Edmonds could ban together to put on drone shows for the public and this would be an option for residents of unincorporated Snohomish County to attend. It comes with a cost and that cost could be passed on to the residents who want to attend the displays by way of admission fees.

As a constituent, I strongly encourage the Council to **ban the sale and discharging of fireworks entirely in unincorporated Snohomish County**. You also have the ability to voice it at a state level with some of the Council members also serving in the Washington State House of Representatives. Take action to support your constituents and the communities you serve as an elected official.

Joyce Evers
Resident of Unincorporate Snohomish County

From: esther szarek <sambruno68@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2024 8:31 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Sale of fireworks

Hello,

I recently learned that the sale of fireworks continues to be allowed in unincorporated Snohomish County where I live. The sale of firework makes the ban useless as people continue to buy them and create havoc in our neighborhoods. I don't know what the process is for banning the sale of fireworks in unincorporated Snohomish County, but I'm reaching out to you to see what the council can do.

Best regards,
Esther Szarek

From: Deb Lazetti <deblazetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:12 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Ban Fireworks Sales

Hello,

I'm writing to share our desire to have our Snohomish County Council take action to ban the sales of fireworks in all unincorporated areas of Snohomish County.

Second to this is that is a great frustration is some continue to set off fireworks in Brier and do not get caught even though I call the phone number to report it. I wish there were a better way of enforcing the ban already in place for all municipalities.

Thank you,
Deborah and Anthony Lazetti
22570 25th Ave W
Brier, WA 98036

From: Aaron <aaronlee8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 9:05 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Ban sale of fireworks

Hi Council members. As a property owner in unincorporated Snohomish County I support the ban on fireworks sale in unincorporated Snohomish County. Thank you.

Aaron