

**CITIZEN TESTIMONY
SUBMITTED FOR
JULY 12, 2023
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

From: Sheila <101sunset@pm.me>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 9:16 PM
To: City Hall <cityhall@corb.us>
Subject: Ordinance No. 23-443 - resident comment

Hello -

We are writing to express our support for proposed Ordinance No. 23-443.

Thank you.
Sheila and Craig Berry
101 SE 4th Ave., RB OR 97136

From: Daniel Howlett <danielhowlett@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:44 AM
To: Luke Shepard <lukeshepard@corb.us>
Cc: Penny Cheek <pennycheek@live.com>; Kristine Hayes <kristineforrockaway@gmail.com>; Mary McGinnis <marymcginniscitycouncil@gmail.com>; Alesia Franken <alesiafrankenrbcitycouncil@gmail.com>; Charles McNeilly <charlesforrockawaybeachmayor@gmail.com>; Tom Martine <tmartine13719@gmail.com>
Subject: Public Testimony for the July 12th council meeting

Mr Shepard,

Please include my public testimony on wednesday:

Drone Show instead of Fireworks

Following up on the 4th of July, I am writing to express my disappointment with the city endorsement of fireworks and then neglecting to enforce any rules. There are many reasons why the city should consider replacing the fireworks show with a drone show. Each year, the city spends \$100k of taxpayer funds to pollute the ocean, terrorize our pets and their owners, trigger veterans who may suffer from PTSD, and cause harm to the local wildlife.

Studies have shown that fireworks add heavy metals like lead as fine particulate matter to the atmosphere, along with aerosols and dangerous gases that can get into people's lungs, then the bloodstream. This toxic matter eventually settles and pollutes our ocean, forests, and waterways, potentially even polluting the Jetty Creek watershed. Oftentimes, revelers neglect to clean up refuse from spent fireworks. The litter, which includes plastic and paper with harmful chemical residue, is not biodegradable.

In light of this, I'm shocked that the city of Rockaway Beach is actively encouraging fireworks! Here are a few examples:

1. The two city owned Welcome to Rockaway Beach Signs promote 4th of July fireworks.
2. The city owned signage at Phyllis Baker park promotes fireworks.
3. The Chamber of Commerce sells fireworks at the Wayside right next to the Rockaway Fire Department volunteer tent.
4. There is little to no enforcement of the laws regarding fireworks.

The message to tourists is clear: Come to Rockaway Beach for fireworks. We will not enforce the laws, go ahead and trash our public parks and beaches as you wish, the local residents don't mind.

On the morning of July 5th, I attended the 9 am SOLVE beach clean up and it was extremely sad to see. Half of the beach looked pristinely clean, since the 3:30 am high tide had already washed most of the fireworks into the sea. The other half of the beach was filled with trash, spent fireworks, microplastics, and lots of random junk.

Despite best efforts from Public Works, including leaving a giant dumpster in front of the Wayside, in the following days, the whole town has been full of litter and trash. Other public spaces like the baseball field at the school district office as well as Phyllis Baker Park were also full of spent fireworks, microplastics, debris, etc. I imagine that it was the same at Lake Lytle. Unfortunately, there was no planned cleanup for these public spaces.

We can do better. I respectfully ask that the council consider making the following changes next year:

1. Have a Drone or lazer light music show instead of a Fireworks Show
2. Stop selling fireworks, it sends the wrong message
3. The Chamber of Commerce should seek alternative fundraising sources so that they are not relying on the sale of fireworks. The city should help fund the chamber of commerce.
4. Enforce the laws already on the books and allocate more funding for law enforcement.
5. Change the signage on the Welcome to Rockaway and the park to remove all references to fireworks.
6. Start a public awareness campaign to promote an alternative. A drone show, the parade, and the wiener dog races would be enough of a tourist draw, we don't need a fireworks show.
7. Plan additional clean up events at all public parks. If the city had a Parks and Recreation department, this might have been a priority.

Some will argue that the economic benefit of tourism over the 4th of July justifies the harm to our community. I disagree. Rockaway Beach is busy every weekend of the summer... we don't need irresponsible tourists trashing our beach town.

The city should reevaluate its Tillamook county marketing program and make changes. It is critical that our city brand aligns with our community values. For example, why does the city promote dog races and fireworks in the same event? Resources should go towards marketing to responsible tourists like hikers on the future Salmonberry Trail and other nature enthusiasts who enjoy the beach and the Big Tree Reserve. Let's attract families, dog owners, outdoor enthusiasts, veterans, and keep the focus on lifestyle and quality of life issues, instead of promoting fireworks that do harm. We need to do the right thing for people, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

Daniel Howlett
132 N Grayling St

Marie Hanson
360 N Juniper Court
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136
(503) 457-7541

July 12, 2023

City of Rockaway Beach City Council
276 S Highway 101, PO Box 5
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Re: Proposed Ordinance No. 23-443 Amending the Rockaway Beach Code of Ordinances, Sections 95.07, 90.02 and 90.99 Regulating the Sale, Discharge, and Noise of Fireworks Within the City of Rockaway Beach

Dear Mayor, City Council Members and Residents of Rockaway Beach,

The following is my testimony for the public hearing to be conducted on July 12, 2023 at 6pm:

Fireworks are Not Funny. They are a liability to Our City, our residents, our pets, our wildlife, our air and water.

They pollute the air

Fireworks pollute the environment with noise, particulate matter and chemicals. When fired they emit toxic gases and chemical compounds in the forms of oxides of sulfur and nitrogen along with particulates which include chemicals like copper, zinc, sodium, lead, magnesium, cadmium, and others, which are harmful to people, animals and are known to create environmental health issues.

They create damaging noise and land pollution

Loud fireworks affect our nervous system directly. Our senior citizens, military veterans, young children and our pets and wildlife suffer from loud sounds. During the explosions, metal salts do not 'burn up.' They are still metal atoms, and many of them end up as aerosols that poison the air, the water, and the soil.

We should all be alarmed about the toxicity threat to our water

When launched in our precious and fragile area here in Rockaway Beach, fireworks contaminate waterways, and the animals that inhabit our lakes, rivers, and creeks. Poisonous chemical compounds affect marine life and can kill them. Fishing can bring the contaminated food into our bodies and further damage people, especially at risk children and elderly. The debris created by fireworks accumulates in water and choke plant and aquatic life.

Global Warming

Fireworks increase heat, carbon dioxide, and many toxic gases in the atmosphere, which cause a rise in the temperature of the earth and polluted air leading to global warming.

Fire Accidents

A tiny spark can cause massive damage to city and state property, residences, and our personal property. When not handled properly, respiratory difficulties and burns result.

Garbage

Fireworks create unattended debris left behind on our beaches, in our parks and other open areas that affect our environment.

Chemicals In Fireworks Affect Health

The dangerous chemicals released during firework displays are dangerous to the human body, affecting the endocrine system, immune system, gastrointestinal system, and metabolism, as well as the neurotransmitters in the brain.

Financial Risk

Accidents can happen and put the City of Rockaway Beach at risk for injuries resulting from use of fireworks. We all pay when this happens.

Conclusion

By choosing not to burn fireworks, we will protect our health, the land we call home, create cleaner air and water we need to survive and take for granted. Additionally, we will care for our beloved animals, beautiful plants and majestic trees. It is time to look for safe alternatives to chemical and loud fireworks. Drone light shows are increasing in popularity and may be a possible solution.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Hanson

From: Carol Bolton <cbolton@mapsinsurance.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 10:33 AM

To: City Hall <cityhall@corb.us>

Subject: Public Hearing - July 12, 2013

Mayor McNeilly:

Councilors: Penny Cheek, Mary McGinnis, Tom Martine, Kristine Hayes, Alesia Franken

Mayor McNeilly,

When you ran for mayor it seemed your message was that you would be a mayor for ALL in Rockaway Beach. This has seemed to change in the past six months.

I am writing today to comment on the proposed Ordinance No 23-443 that is included on the agenda for tonight's City Council meeting.

I cannot tell you how disappointed I am in that you seem to not take into consideration the business owners in Rockaway Beach when proposals such as Ordinance No 23-443. are presented for a vote. The STR tax revenue brought to the City of Rockaway Beach as of June 30, 2023. is \$1,800,217.76. according to your latest report. Your only concern seems to be related to the full-time citizens of Rockaway Beach, and not to the business owners that bring millions of dollars of revenue every year to this city.

Many community groups would benefit from the sale of fireworks. The City shops benefit from the sales of fireworks and the fireworks displays that occur every 4th of July. This is a long standing family fun event held every year in Rockaway Beach.

To implement fines and penalties against the tourists will send a message that they are not welcome here at Rockaway Beach. This will impact the small business owners as well as your city budget. Is this really the message, that you want to send?

I am asking the City Council to communicate and meet with business owners before making any changes to the 4th of July. You all know who I am and have never once reached out when these topics were discussed. Isn't it time to work as a team? Until this can happen, please vote NO on this ordinance. This is not beneficial to anyone here at Rockaway Beach!

Respectfully,

Carol Bolton , President
Rockaway Shores Condominiums
300 N. Pacific St.
Rockaway Beach, OR. 97136
503-639-6200