

Stop Illegal Fireworks!

Stop Illegal Fireworks! (SIF) is a grassroots effort in Richmond organized to end the use of illegal fireworks in our city. We believe the most important thing we can do is enlist everyone in Richmond to help reach this goal. Read more about our efforts at sifrichmondca.org



What is Motivating this?

Every year, local fire departments issue warnings about the risk of personal injuries and the threat of fires due to fireworks. Illegal fireworks aren't just a danger to fingers or dry brush. Firework explosions can frighten or traumatize over thousands of pets, small children, and people with autism and dementia, as well as combat veterans and adults suffering from PTSD.

The City of San Pablo recently passed a fireworks ordinance with higher fines and other tougher measures than Richmond's. Richmond needs a stronger ordinance to prevent fireworks users from coming to Richmond because the fines are significantly lower.

Current Ordinances

- **California:** < 25 lbs. -- minimum **\$1,000 - 2,000** fine and/or max one year in county jail. Fines increase when giving fireworks to a minor, for weights > than 25 lbs. and subsequent convictions
- **City of San Pablo:** fine for each device is **\$1,000**. Within one year, fine for subsequent incidences is **\$2,500** per device
- **City of Richmond:** fine for first citation is **\$250**. Within two years, second is \$500 and third and additional are \$1,000

What the Richmond City Council could do

- Pass a resolution declaring zero tolerance for illegal fireworks
- Strengthen the City ordinance to deter fireworks use
 - o Increase minimum fine amounts to \$1,000 with a [reasonable payment plan](#) for high fines
 - o Enact a social host ordinance
 - o Enact an ordinance to discourage private fireworks in public places (parks, parkways, schools and critical infrastructure)
- Address the supply of illegal fireworks coming in from Nevada

- o Encourage an [Interstate Compact](#) between California and Nevada informing law enforcement—via a shared database—of legal firework sales in some Nevada cities by writing a letter of support to Governor Newsom