



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton, Chair, Public Safety Board

DATE: April 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Report from the Public Safety Board on a Referral from the City Council on a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 1, General Code; Chapter 14, Morals and Conduct, Use of Permissible Fireworks

Recommendation

Accept this report from the Public Safety Board.

Background

The City Council received a proposed ordinance and a report from the City Solicitor in response to a communication from Councilor Matson regarding the use of high powered fireworks in the City of Concord.

On April 13, 2015, the City Council referred this matter to the Public Safety Board.

On April 27, 2015, the Public Safety Board met and heard testimony from the following individuals on this matter: Ms. Barbara Bell, a resident of the City of Concord; Deputy City Solicitor Danielle Pacik; Police Chief Brad Osgood; Mr. Chris Wyman of the New Hampshire Division of Fire Safety; and Fire Chief Daniel Andrus.

The Board discussed existing state law and ordinances and reviewed information on practices with regard to fireworks in other New Hampshire communities. The Board discussed the ability of the Police Department to regulate certain conduct involving the use of fireworks under the state statute on disorderly conduct set forth in RSA 644:2, as well as the City's noise ordinance set forth in Section 13-6-1 of the City of Concord Code of Ordinances. The Board also discussed the use of bicycle patrol officers to monitor the locations in which complaints have been received.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council vote against the proposed ordinance, which would have restricted the hours in which permissible fireworks are allowed to be displayed. The Board did establish a subcommittee including Board members and the Police and Fire Chiefs to review whether permits would offer a solution to some of the issues identified during the testimony.