



**CITY OF COSTA MESA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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To: Tom Gazsi, Chief of Police

FROM: Rob Sharpnack, Captain

DATE: July 12, 2013

SUBJECT: 4<sup>TH</sup> of July After-Action Report (July 1-5, 2013)

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The following is the after-action report for deployment of Police Department and other City resources for the five-day period of June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>. During this year's holiday period, 37 firework stands were operational compared to 38 in 2012. In addition, permits were issued for 9 block party closures compared to 4 in 2012.

The Police Department accomplished the expected operational goals with no noteworthy issues. Staffing was achieved with no overtime. Throughout the five-day period, the Police Department adequately staffed resources to; 1) handle prioritized emergency calls-for-service, 2) handle routine area calls-for-service, and 3) address specific firework related calls-for-service and proactive "hot spot" enforcement.

**Police Department Staffing**

Department staffing levels remained at normal levels from June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>. To manage the increased calls for service on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Teams 3 & 4 began their payback day at 7:00 AM, providing seven additional officers. Team 11 began their payback day at 4:00 PM, providing an additional two officers. Teams 7 & 8 began their payback day at 7:00 PM, providing an additional ten officers. Teams 7 & 8 were dedicated directed enforcement (DE) units and the primary responders for all firework related CFS. July 4<sup>th</sup> staffing consisted of:

- 0700-1700 hours      4 sergeants, 14 officers
- 1700-1900 hours      1 lieutenant, 2 sergeants, & 11 officers
- 1900-2200 hours      1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, & 21 officers
- 2200-0200 hours      5 sergeants, 26 officers
- 0200-0500 hours      4 sergeants, 15 officers

## **Enforcement Strategies**

At the beginning of this year's firework sales period, the Police Department proactively sought out individuals who received significant complaints from their neighbors. Officers contacted and warned several residents about the dangers and criminal violations associated with the use of illegal fireworks and explosive devices. As a result, potential problems were diffused throughout the City.

The civil citation process was utilized for the enforcement of firework-related violations of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Department fielded five *firework directed enforcement units* specifically tasked with handling firework-related calls-for-service, as well as proactive enforcement of related violations. Officers issued **38** civil citations for Costa Mesa Municipal Code violations with fines totaling approximately \$5,700, compared to 13 civil citations in 2012. All citations are scheduled for Administrative Hearings on September 3, 2013.

## **Calls-For-Service (CFS)**

For the deployment period, Communications received **428** firework-related CFS that were handled via general broadcast (GB) to area police units, compared to 329 in 2012. Officers were dispatched and responded to **76** firework-related CFS where the reporting party requested personal contact with an officer, compared to 29 in 2012. Throughout the preceding days, CFS volume was moderate with the expected increase on July 4<sup>th</sup>. CFS on July 4<sup>th</sup> generally peaked between the hours of 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. At no point did the CFS volume exceed staffing capabilities. The following table reflects CFS and citations for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July deployment periods over the last three years.

| <b>CFS</b>        | <b>2013</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Firework GBs      | 428         | 329         | 383         |
| Officer Responses | 76          | 29          | 57          |
| Civil Citations   | 38          | 7           | 0           |

There were no noteworthy issues regarding fireworks or parties within city parks.

Arrests made:

- 1 drug possession arrest (11377(a) H&S)
- 1 drunk in public arrest (647(f) PC)
- 4 DUI (23152(a) CVC)
- 1 warrant
- 1 fireworks related (refusal to sign citation)
- 1 "failure to register as an arsonist" arrest (457.1(h) PC)

## **Fire Department**

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Fire Department Arson Investigator Blincoe was available throughout the day to assist with investigations or enforcement specific to fireworks.

The Watch Commander was responsible for liaison with Battalion Chief Kevin Diamond and Captain Brosamer, who were in charge of Fire Department operations.

During the five-day deployment period, the Fire Department responded to a total of three holiday related calls.

- A firework landed on the roof of a vacant building and was extinguished by neighbors
- A dumpster fire
- Assisted the Police Department in putting out a bonfire that was burning in the street

### **Public Services**

For the past few years TNT, the fireworks company in town, has provided clean up of all fireworks in 8 City parks and sweeping of the associated parking lots. This service, in conjunction with the posting of all the City parks for “No Fireworks” has virtually eliminated the impact of fireworks on City parks and the hours of clean up it used to require. The main impact of the 4th of July is mainly the heavy picnic and recreational use of the parks, and the lighting of fireworks in the City streets. Park staff is typically very busy the day after the 4th, picking up litter and emptying trash cans in parks, cleaning shelters, etc. just like the day after any national holiday. This year was no different.

In addition to the impact on parks, the street sweepers typically see a lot of fireworks on the routes, and not always near curbs, so they do some additional sweeping to pickup as much of the debris as possible. Cul-de-sacs are typically very dirty, due to the higher incidence of fireworks set off when there is no thru traffic.

Overall, there was nothing out of the ordinary this year. No extra man hours spent or overtime as a result of the 4th of July holiday.

### **Recommendations**

Based on an assessment of the 2013 – 4<sup>th</sup> of July After-Action Report, the following are recommendations for future deployments:

- Utilize the City and PD websites, and other social media resources to mass-distribute information regarding a “safe & sane” 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Coordinate with the Mesa Consolidated Water District (MCWD) to disseminate mailers on local and state firework laws with the monthly residential billing leading up to 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Coordinate with City Hall to create and disseminate a series of press releases focused on a “safe & sane” holiday, local and state laws, and strict enforcement by the Police Department

- Distribute additional civil citation books to increase accessibility and enforcement capabilities

### **Conclusion**

This was the third year with the increased allowable number of days to sell/purchase fireworks. The increased staffing on July 4<sup>th</sup> was successfully accomplished through the use of 3/12 “payback” shifts. The Police Department experienced an increase of approximately 30% in total firework-related CFS compared to 2012, along with a 171% increase in total citations issued. Of the 9 city-permitted block parties, none had an adverse impact on Department resources.

**ATTACHMENT A: Firework-Related CFS**

\*\*Call dispositions are as follows:

GOA – Gone on arrival  
 UTL – Unnecessary to log  
 PAWC – Party advised, will comply  
 CI – Citation issued

CAN – Call cancelled  
 RTF – Report to follow  
 RTFAR – Arrest report to follow  
 NON – Fire dept. non medical incident

**Monday July 1st, 2013**

**FIRE GENERAL BROADCAST**

**FIRE 0 RESPONSES**

**TOTAL 30**

**FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)**

**TOTAL 9**

**TOTAL CITATIONS 0**  
**TOTAL ARREST 0**

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS                   |
|--------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| #48910 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | CMHS                      |
| #49015 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | DEAD END W 19TH ST        |
| #49016 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2004 POMONA (IN THE AREA) |
| #49017 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 20TH ST & PLACENTIA       |
| #49023 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | CENTER & MONROVIA         |
| #49035 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1924 CONTINENTAL AV       |
| #49036 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 2813 PORTOLA DR           |
| #49041 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | SANTA ISABEL & ORANGE     |
| #49043 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 939 CAPITAL ST            |

**TUESDAY JULY 2ND, 2013**

**FIRE GENERAL BROADCAST**

**FIRE 0 RESPONSES**

**TOTAL  
44**

**FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)**

**TOTAL  
5**

**TOTAL CITATIONS  
0  
TOTAL ARREST  
0**

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS            |
|--------|-------|------------|--------------------|
| #49198 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1989 FEDERAL       |
| #49361 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | SCOTT PL & WALLACE |
| #49374 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 955 W 19TH ST      |
| #49417 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 255 PALMER         |
| #49442 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2063 CHARLE        |

**WEDNESDAY JULY 3RD, 2013**

**FIRE GENERAL BROADCAST**

**FIRE 0 RESPONSES**

**TOTAL  
81**

**FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)**

**TOTAL  
7**

**TOTAL CITATIONS  
0  
TOTAL ARREST  
0**

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS                  |
|--------|-------|------------|--------------------------|
| #49460 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | POMONA & SHALIMAR DR     |
| #49728 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1989 FEDERAL AV          |
| #49734 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 18TH & VIOLA PL          |
| #49749 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 3136 BERMUDA DR          |
| #49756 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | MYRTLEWOOD & JACARAND AV |

|                        |      |            |                          |  |  |  |
|------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| #49759                 | PAWC | ILLEGAL FW | 207 CAMELIA LN           |  |  |  |
| #49792                 | UTL  | ILLEGAL FW | 1299 VICTORIA            |  |  |  |
|                        |      |            |                          |  |  |  |
| THURSDAY JULY 4TH THRU |      |            | JULY 5TH 0000-0500 HOURS |  |  |  |

FIRE GENERAL BROADCAST

FIRE 3 RESPONSES

TOTAL 252

FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)

TOTAL 55

TOTAL CITATIONS 32  
TOTAL ARREST 2

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS               |
|--------|-------|------------|-----------------------|
| #49849 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 252 PALMER            |
| #49850 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | POMONA & SHALIMAR DR  |
| #49864 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | ANDROS 7 PONDEROSA ST |
| #49991 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1850 WHITTER          |
| #50078 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 2024 PALOMA           |
| #50079 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2031 WALLACE          |
| #50085 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 721 W 20TH            |
| #50093 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2258 PAMELA LN        |
| #50120 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | CENTER & MONROVIA     |
| #50126 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | VIOLA PL & 18TH ST    |
| #50127 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 177 2ND ST            |
| #50140 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | CONWAY & MURRAY LN    |
| #50166 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 980 LINDEN PL         |
| #50162 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2223 RUTGERS DR       |
| #50167 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 924 GOVERNOR ST       |
| #50170 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 1561 ORANGE AV        |
| #50172 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 327 AVOCADO ST        |
| #50173 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 648 W 18TH ST         |
| #50180 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 900 W WILSON          |
| #50185 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 276 AVOCADO ST        |
| #50197 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 3033 JEFFREY DR       |
| #50207 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 970 ARLINGTON DR      |
| #50221 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 2214 CANYON DR        |
| #50225 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 867 W 19TH ST         |
| #50241 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 1950 FEDERAL AV       |
| #50243 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 269 SIERKS ST         |
| #50244 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | MENDOZA & BAKER       |
| #50250 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 900 JOANN ST          |
| #50251 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2063 CONTINENTAL AV   |
| #50265 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | MAPLE ST WILSON       |

|        |       |            |                           |
|--------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| #50268 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2060 CONTINETAL AV        |
| #50270 | RTFAR | ILLEGAL FW | 1984 CONTINENTAL AV       |
| #50283 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2269 MAPLE ST             |
| #50286 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 1080 SALINAS AV           |
| #50288 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | PARKVIEW & PARK HILL DR   |
| #50290 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | SANTA ANA AV & 16TH ST    |
| #50301 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2175 MAPLE ST             |
| #50304 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 3033 JEFFREY DR           |
| #50308 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 667 VICTORIA ST           |
| #50314 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 1880 WHITTER AV           |
| #50346 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 3016 COLLEGE AV           |
| #50348 | RTFAR | ILLEGAL FW | 734 W 20TH ST             |
| #50371 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 913 PRESIDIO DR           |
| #50377 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 612 HAMILTON ST           |
| #50384 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 685 CENTER ST             |
| #50385 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 3025 GARFIELD AV          |
| #50392 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 414 E 16TH ST             |
| #50429 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 321 AVOCADO ST            |
| #50444 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 3001 GRANT AV             |
| #50458 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 356 RAMONA AV             |
| #50479 | CI    | ILLEGAL FW | 2501 HARBOR BL            |
| #50503 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 1250 ADAMS AV             |
| #50523 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | EL CAMINO DR & LORENZO AV |
| #5313  | NON   | 904RS      | 2375 ORANGE AV            |
| #5316  | NON   | STILL      | 20TH & SANTA ANA AV       |
| #5317  | NON   | DUMPSTER   | 180 21ST ST               |

**FRIDAY JULY 5TH (0500-0000 HOURS)**

**FIRE GENERAL BROADCAST**

**FIRE 0 RESPONSES**

**TOTAL 23**

**FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)**

**TOTAL CITATIONS**

**TOTAL 22**

**0  
TOTAL ARREST  
1**

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS           |
|--------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| #50670 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | FULLERTON & BAY   |
| #50688 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 251 AVOCADO ST    |
| #50692 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1563 CORIANDER DR |
| #50695 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2227 POMONA AV    |
| #50739 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 333 E 18TH ST     |
| #50743 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 892 PRESIDIO DR   |



|        |       |            |                           |
|--------|-------|------------|---------------------------|
| #50744 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2427 FORDHAM DR           |
| #50746 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | DUKE PL & NASSAU RD       |
| #50747 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 221 E WILSON ST           |
| #50749 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | PLACENTIA & CENTER ST     |
| #50751 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | WALLACE AV & SHALIMAR DR  |
| #50752 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1872 MONROVIA AV          |
| #50754 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | MONROVIA AV & CENTER      |
| #50760 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2345 NOTRE DAME RD        |
| #50761 | RTFAR | ILLEGAL FW | 2327 CORNELL DR           |
| #50763 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 775 SHALIMAR DR           |
| #50780 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | PONDEROSA & ROYAL PALM DR |

**SATURDAY JULY 6TH THRU JULY 7TH (0000-0400 HOURS)**

**FIRE GENERAL  
BROADCAST**

**FIRE 1  
RESPONSE**

**TOTAL  
0**

**FIREWORKS (OFFICER RESPONSE)**

**TOTAL  
CITATIONS  
0  
TOTAL  
ARREST  
0**

**TOTAL  
29**

| INC #  | DISPO | COMMENTS   | ADDRESS                     |
|--------|-------|------------|-----------------------------|
| #50809 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1826 PLACENTIA              |
| #50813 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 674 PARK AV                 |
| #50819 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 238 AVOCADO                 |
| #50890 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 966 JOANN ST                |
| #51022 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | PAULARINA & JEFFREY         |
| #51032 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2016 CONTINENTAL AV         |
| #51052 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 1780 HUMMINGBIRD DR         |
| #51068 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | VICTORIA & AMERICAN AV      |
| #51071 | PAWC  | ILLEGAL FW | 401 FAIR DR                 |
| #51088 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 16TH PI & ALISO AV          |
| #51089 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | FLOWER & TUSTIN AV          |
| #51091 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | WHITTER & PARKHILL DR       |
| #51094 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | SEA BLUFF & GLEN EAGLES TER |
| #51096 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 1857 PARKGLEN CI            |
| #51097 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 1878 PARKCREST DR           |
| #51098 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | 1156 GLENEAGLES TER         |
| #51099 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 19TH & MEYER PL             |
| #51101 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 1950 ANAHEIM AV             |
| #51102 | CAN   | ILLEGAL FW | BEACH ST & MEYER PL         |
| #51103 | GOA   | ILLEGAL FW | 678 W 19TH ST               |
| #51106 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | 2500 PLACENTIA AV           |
| #51109 | UTL   | ILLEGAL FW | SANTA ANA & 21ST PL         |

|              |            |              |                              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| #51134       | PAWC       | ILLEGAL FW   | 145 23RD ST                  |
| #51140       | UTL        | ILLEGAL FW   | 380 W WILSON                 |
| #51173       | UTL        | ILLEGAL FW   | 246 TULANE RD                |
| #51182       | UTL        | ILLEGAL FW   | KNOWELL PL & MEYER PL        |
| #51188       | PAWC       | ILLEGAL FW   | 2339 RICHMOND WAY            |
| #51196       | GOA        | ILLEGAL FW   | 365 RIVERIA AV               |
| #51197       | UTL        | ILLEGAL FW   | SANTA ANA & 23RD PL          |
| <b>#5369</b> | <b>NON</b> | <b>904RS</b> | <b>2775 E. MESA VERDE DR</b> |