



CITY COUNCIL FOLLOW UP REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 2, 2004 ITEM NUMBER: R 071904-4

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: John D. Hensley, Chief of Police
DATE: July 27, 2004
REQUESTED BY: TERESA UMETSU
ADDRESS OF REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL: 1793 Tanager Drive, Costa Mesa

BACKGROUND:

At a recent City Council meeting, Ms. Teresa Umetsu a resident at 1793 Tanager Drive reported a lack of law enforcement on the 4th of July at Tanager Park. She stated that this past year has been the worst with regards to fireworks in this particular park. In addition, she stated that the fireworks signs were disregarded, as well as, the signs indicating no people in the park after darkness. Ms. Teresa Umetsu also complained that Illegal parking was not enforced in the area of the park.

FOLLOW UP REPORT:

The Costa Mesa Police and Fire Chiefs directed the implementation of a task force and operational plan to address illegal fireworks related problems. The goal of the task force was to ensure the safety of the community and to gain compliance of the ordinances governing the use of fireworks. In order to meet this goal, the program focused on educating the public about fireworks safety and laws as they apply to illegal fireworks.

An operational plan was created and the fireworks enforcement program was implemented on July 4th from 4:00 pm to 1:00 am. During the course of the evening, enforcement officers responded to 254 calls regarding fireworks.

Emphasis of the enforcement plan was placed on all City parks, local schools and large parking lots. While significant progress was noted in some of the major parks and schools regarding the use of illegal fireworks, it is apparent from Ms. Umetsu's account that Tanager Park was not as fortunate. The task force was directed at problematic areas based upon gathered information from a variety of resources. Tanager Park had not been previously identified as one of these locations.

Officers issued 36 citations for fireworks related violations, which included possession of dangerous fireworks, using fireworks in City parks, use of fireworks outside of the approved time period and fireworks use by a minor. In addition to issuing citations, police and fire personnel also confiscated several hundred pounds of illegal fireworks. Additionally, hundreds of citizens were contacted and educated about fireworks safety.

In light of the Ms. Umetsu's complaint and the violations that were addressed, Tanager Park will join the list of other parks already identified as areas that need enforcement to prevent future disturbances.

John D. Hensley
Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION: Deputy City Clerk

080304 Umetsu Follow Up Report

07/27/04

1500 Hours