

We did it!

On May 10 the Board of Supervisors voted to pass Consent Agenda item 45.2 and even added an extra policy directive -- to include regular visitors accommodations (like hotels and motels) in receiving letters from the Planning Department about educating customers about the Fireworks Ban in Santa Cruz County.

Supervisor Zach Friend was eloquent as he described the problem and the need to find solutions, calling the list they voted for an important good beginning. Had we not campaigned for this for 8 months, this would never have happened.

The motion passed also calls for the Sheriff's office to return to the Board with a report on the effectiveness of these increased measures no later than September. Here is a link to the full list of policies and directives <http://freedomfromfireworks.weebly.com/bos-recommendations.html>

Change in Attitude?

During our conversations with Supervisors earlier this year - after we had submitted FFF recommendations to the BOS in January - we always mentioned how dispatchers frequently seemed to make light of a report of fireworks ("Well, its that time of year!" etc.). No supervisor liked hearing about this situation.

I received an email message from Eve Roberson on May 11th, saying: "*A few minutes ago a firecracker went off close to my place near the animal shelter/school ground in Live Oak and terrified my dog. I called 911 and the dispatcher was very polite and said the deputies would check it out.*"

The County contracts with 9-1-1 Regional, so maybe someone had a talk with the person who oversees the dispatchers. Whatever was at play with the response to Eve's call, it will be interesting to see if this helpfulness becomes a pattern.

May 16 (Monday) Meeting with Sheriff

This will be an opportunity to learn from the Sheriff about their new plans on dealing with fireworks by getting into the neighborhoods this 4th of July. They will want to learn from us where the Hot Spots are, so plan to attend and present detailed descriptions! See you Monday at the Sheriff Service Center 5200 Soquel Ave. at Chanticleer.

Jean

<http://freedomfromfireworks.weebly.com/>