

Hi everyone ~

It has been a month since our last newsletter, but that month included two holidays as well as our continuing work to pull everything together for our January presentation to the County Board of Supervisors (BOD).

Some updates:

1. **The basic recommendations to the BOD are finalized.** The basic report fits on less than three pages. Short and sweet, as well as very professional looking! All that is left to do is finish some simple footnotes and attachments, plus create a cover page. That will be finished right after the new year. Then we will email the final package (in a pdf file) to all of you.

2. **Save Our Shores has written a statement in support of our campaign.** It reads, in part, "*Save Our Shores supports the well-considered recommendations put forth by the Freedom From Fireworks coalition to reduce the use of illegal fireworks on beaches and in neighborhoods in Santa Cruz.*" We wish it could have been stronger (e.g., eliminate the use of illegal fireworks, rather than reduce), but it is good to have their support nonetheless.

3. **We have a tentative date (January 12) to present our report** - during Oral Communications - to the BOD. This will be a morning meeting at 9:00 am. It is difficult for working people to make such a commitment at that time. However, as many of you as possible who can be there that morning would be welcome, to stand with us at the podium, to show the supervisors there is countywide support for solutions to the intolerable fireworks situation. We will send an e-reminder of the date, time and place. For now, please make a penciled notation on your calendars.

4. **We will be meeting with individual Supervisors the second two weeks of January.** The reason we need to hustle in January is that the Countywide Fireworks Team starts its planning for the 4th of July in February. We want the BOD to have enough time to make some commitments to the policy changes and budgeting that are called for in our list of recommendations.

5. **We finally met with the SC Police Department!** Like the County Sheriff, SCPD was hesitant to have a public meeting. Law enforcement is so hammered and, frankly, almost at a loss as to how to deal with fireworks problems. I suggested a pre-meeting, with just one or two of us, to share with them the purpose of our campaign and to listen to their concerns and current limitations. It worked. We had a very productive meeting (over an hour), with two FFF and two SCPD. Beforehand we had shared the final draft of our recommendations to the BOD. SCPD very open to many of the recommendations. And, they want to have a public meeting, probably in May or June. They asked FFF to be a part of that meeting. In a later newsletter, we will summarize the full meeting with SCPD, to keep all of you in the loop.

6. **New Year's Eve and fireworks are upon us.** We can count on it. Once again it will be important for us to *call 9-1-1 and give the dispatcher as much information as possible* about the location of fireworks use and possession. We have learned from both County and City law enforcement that their hands are basically tied unless they see the use and/or possession of

fireworks. However, this does not mean that we quit calling them. If they are nearby they can respond in a timely fashion. Also, we are able to use the record of calls received to back our campaign for solving this problem. The more statistics the better to make our case.

As always, feel free to share this newsletter with friends and family. We still have our [Facebook](#) page, although we don't post as much to it as previously. However, we will use it to share updates on the campaign as well as important meeting dates. And people can find us through the FB page, to [Contact Us](#) and lend support.

For Freedom From Fireworks in the New Year,  
Jean, on behalf of [FFF](#)