

Hi All ~

A little late notice but I hope some of you may be able to attend the first of a new *Sheriff Meets With Residents* event on Thursday (1/21) at 10:00 am at the Sheriff's Center at 2500 Soquel Ave (corner of Chanticleer). As you all know, we had a good meeting with two law enforcement officers about fireworks last October. But Sheriff Hart was not there and he will be there on Thursday.

For anyone who can attend, your main messages for the Sheriff are:

1. Fireworks is a big problem for our family throughout the year, not just on July 4th (health & safety). Mention that they sound like gun fire and its awful to live like this.
2. You are anxious for the Sheriff's office to implement the recommendations presented by the Freedom From Fireworks campaign on January 12th to the Board of Supervisors.

We just want to make sure that fireworks stays on their radar as an important health & safety issue for residents.

We have recently learned that the job for law enforcement to address fireworks violations *just got easier*, because law enforcement can take complaints about "loud," "penetrating" and "irritating" fireworks explosions, if an exact address is given, and apply the County's Social Host Liability Ordinance ([County Code Chapter 8.32](#)) and the Noise Ordinance ([County Code Chapter 8.30](#) as recently amended) to contact the renters or the property owner. Officers will not need to actually see the fireworks ignited or even prove possession. A picture showing the offenders at work at the address will be enough. The perpetrators can pretend all they want that no one set off fireworks from that address, but there will be a record of the complaint (with the address) and that is all that is needed to kick in 8.32 and/or 8.30.

The Sheriff will know this by the meeting on Thursday, because they will have received the news also!

I cannot be there on Thursday, as I have a conflicting meeting, so I hope some of you are able to attend...and report back what happens.

Thanks,
Jean

