

Hello All ~

We now have 209 recipients of our newsletters. Welcome aboard to those who have recently made a commitment to this campaign.

FFF Campaign for 2021

We began planning for this year's 4th of July early, with a productive strategizing session amongst six of us on April 28th. We had residents from various locations in Live Oak and one from the City of Santa Cruz. Unable to attend that day, but still part of our informal steering committee, is a resident from Rio Del Mar.

We divided our strategy into **two parts**: first to span May 2021 through July 4th and second to span post-July 4th through the end of the year. We divided chores amongst us, including contacting the SC Police Department, contacting veterinarians for their thoughts and support, writing to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), and contacting Animal Services, among others.

The results of our various activities to date are:

- Contact with Animal Services who appreciate FFF and will be doing their own media campaign
- The SC Police Dept. was contacted and coincidentally a news story was published May 20. To read it click [HERE](#).
- Phone contact with several veterinarians who appreciate our work and who visited our FFF web site
- Our May 7th letter to the BOS is viewable here <http://freedomfromfireworks.weebly.com/2021-letter-to-bos.html>
- We attended the virtual BOS May 11th meeting and spoke during Public Comments. That comment is viewable by clicking [HERE](#).

We had hoped the BOS would place this matter on its May 25th Consent Agenda, so the public could comment specifically on actions the BOS could take. However, in a May 13 reply to our letter from Supervisor Zach Friend, who had worked with Supervisor Manu Koenig, we were *pleased* to see that, once more, virtually all the May 2016 directives from the BOS were to be implemented. Zach wrote:

Hi Jean-

It is nice to hear from you and thank you for your continued advocacy on this issue. Supervisor Koenig and I researched these issues with staff and have answers for each of the points below. We don't believe an item to the Board is necessary given what we have learned. I have put answers/updates next to each

of the previous directions and current requests. Let us know if you need anything else.

Best-
Zach

I think with our initial letter and comments at the May 11th BOS meeting that our goal was reached; that is, we were an added catalyst to get the county to be proactive. Coincidental to our work with the BOS ... or not ... many of you may have seen the news story of the seizure of 1,000 pounds of fireworks, by a multi-agency task force that included the County Sheriff Department. You may read the KSBW story [HERE](#).

Maybe 2021 will see some improvement after all. One can hope.

California Senate Bill 277

One last bit of good news. When we sent out a call to action on April 28, thanks to all of you who wrote letters because they helped greatly. SB 277 continues to head to the Senate floor. While its not the strongest fireworks bill, it is a beginning. There's more good news about this -- Santa Cruz County residents submitted the lion's share of letters received supporting the bill. It definitely matters when legislators hear from the public. Your letters mattered!!

Continuing Our Work

We have met part one of our strategy, with part two being work post July 4th.

Since the fireworks bust was in the Watsonville area, a short term goal would be to expand our Watsonville area supporters, so we may have Watsonville residents who can speak to their City Council about fireworks. On the newsletter distribution e-list, we have two from the City of Watsonville and two in the unincorporated Watsonville area (Fourth District). We hope they will encourage their neighbors to join this campaign before or after the 4th. And if any of the other 205 of you have friends or family in Watsonville, please send them an email with our web site and encourage them to sign up. Thanks!

Jean Brocklebank

Michael Lewis

[Freedom From Fireworks](#)