



RACINE FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief's Office: 262-635-7911

December 10, 2010

Honorable Mayor and
Common Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

In September of this year, the Committee requested the Fire Department review pyrotechnic ordinances in surrounding communities with an eye towards updating our ordinance. Division Chief Timm Prideaux from the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted research in comparable communities. Here are the results of that survey:

- The minimum permit fee for a pyrotechnic display is \$50
- The maximum permit fee for a pyrotechnic display is \$200, in the City of Milwaukee
- All communities require proof of insurance
- All communities have noise ordinances through their respective Health Departments to deal with sound associated with the pyrotechnic display
- The latest time a pyrotechnic display needs to end is 11:00 p.m., in the City of Milwaukee
- Most communities contacted stated they never had a problem with pyrotechnic displays, since most displays are started at dusk and end well before 11:00 p.m.
- The City of Kenosha has restrictions on pyrotechnic displays in residential neighborhoods.

Since 2008, the City of Racine has issued 14 pyrotechnic display permits. Until this year, there have been no issues related to those pyrotechnic permits. As a matter of fact, there have been no issues with pyrotechnic displays for many years.

After careful review, it is our determination that the current pyrotechnic display permit process meets and exceeds local and national standards. Our permitting process follows National Fire Protection Association standards as outlined in NFPA 1126, and we are diligent about making sure permit holders have the proper insurance for the event. Where we have had an issue recently, is when our permit process was overridden by another City agency and the starting time of the pyrotechnic display changed without consulting either the Fire or Health Departments.

Ultimately, the safety and performance of the pyrotechnic display rests with the pyrotechnic technician. They are highly qualified and mature individuals who are fully aware of the dangers associated with pyrotechnic displays. To address concerns raised about citizens applying for permits without any formal background in pyrotechnic displays, the present permitting process allows us the full flexibility to approve or deny permits based on the application and skill of the individual.

Our recommendation at the present time is to not make changes to the pyrotechnic ordinance as written. We would suggest increasing the pyrotechnic application to \$150 per event to cover the costs associated with the permitting process.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hansen, Fire Chief