CITY OF BETHLEHEM

City Council Memorandum

SUBJECT: Consumer Fireworks Nuisance

TO:

Robert J. Donchez, Mayor

FROM:

J. William Reynolds, Member of Council

DATE:

July 6, 2020

In 2017, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017, which allowed Pennsylvania residents to legally purchase much larger and louder fireworks than previously available. Since passage of the Fireworks Law, fireworks have become an increasing nuisance in the City and across the Commonwealth.

Widespread use of loud fireworks, outside of holidays and special events, has become a significant nuisance and is negatively impacting quality of life in the City. Since passage of the Fireworks Law, fireworks are increasingly discharged late into the night, throughout the City, causing loud and unexpected explosions that frighten residents and pets, wake sleeping infants and children, and exacerbate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms in our veterans.

The attached proposed resolution urges our state legislators to repeal or amend the 2017 Fireworks Law and asks you and your Administration to investigate possible solutions to the nuisance of Consumer Fireworks in the City.

I would ask the Members of Council to consider the attached resolution at the July 7, 2020 City Council meeting.

J. William Reynolds, Member Council

I wolle

CC: Members of Council Chief of Police

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

Resolution urging our state legislators to repeal or amend the Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017, and asking the Mayor and his Administration to investigate possible solutions to the nuisance of Consumer Fireworks

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017 ("Fireworks Law") which permitted Pennsylvania residents to purchase "Consumer Fireworks" and expanded the scope of fireworks available to residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to include significantly larger and louder fireworks than previously available;

WHEREAS, since the passage of the Fireworks Law, Consumer Fireworks have become an increasing nuisance throughout the Commonwealth and in the City of Bethlehem, where they are often discharged late into the night, causing loud explosions that disturb sleep, frighten residents and their children, infants, and pets, and exacerbate Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in our veterans; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Bethlehem believes the use of Consumer Fireworks in the City has become a significant nuisance that is disturbing the peace and negatively impacting quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem urges its state legislators to work in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to repeal the Fireworks Law, Act 43 of 2017 or to amend the law to allow for appropriate municipal regulation of Consumer Fireworks or otherwise address the problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Bethlehem asks the Mayor and his Administration to investigate possible solutions to the widespread nuisance of Consumer Fireworks in the City of Bethlehem.

	Sponsored by		
ADOPTED by Council this	day of	, 2020.	
		President of Council	-
ATTEST:			
City Clerk			