



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 10, 2021

The Honorable Bob Archuleta
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5066
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 277 (Archuleta)—Fireworks: Dangerous Fireworks: Seizure: Management

Dear Senator Archuleta:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support Senate Bill 277. This bill would expand the definition of a dangerous firework and would require the State Fire Marshal to oversee protocols regarding seized fireworks statewide. As illegal fireworks can have detrimental impacts to the quality of life for residents, particularly for individuals suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and can cause serious personal injury, structural damage, and hazardous air quality, the City appreciates the increased oversight proposed by SB 277.

Fireworks are illegal in the City of Long Beach, except for professional use. The City coordinates public service announcements, press releases, and social media campaigns communicating that all fireworks are dangerous and illegal in Long Beach, and we deploy enhanced Long Beach Fire Department and Long Beach Police Department patrols to respond to fireworks-related service calls and issue citations for fireworks violations. Yet, in 2020, the City received almost 800 fireworks-related calls on July 4th, an increase of 67 percent compared to an average day, and investigators recovered 808 pounds of fireworks during peak firework season. The Long Beach City Prosecutor also created an online portal to report illegal fireworks, which received almost 500 entries last summer. SB 277 will provide the City additional capacity for training and guidelines to safely seize dangerous fireworks.

Despite efforts to curb the illegal sale and possession of fireworks in Long Beach, enforcement remains a serious challenge as neighboring cities not only have incompatible ordinances regarding the prohibition of fireworks, but also implement different enforcement mechanisms, penalties, and administrative citations. The City supports legislation that would expand statewide restrictions on fireworks, as SB 277 proposes. Given these reasons, the City supports SB 277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia".

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District