
From: James Mackenzie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 10:20 PM
To: Ulloa, Eunice <eulloa@cityofchino.org>; Mensen, Kevin <KMensen@chinopd.org>
Cc: Jimmy & Tracy Mackenzie [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXT EMAIL] Concern re: Illegal Firework Hazards on Cypress Avenue

Mayor Ulloa and Chief Mensen,

My name is James Mackenzie and my wife, Tracy, and our three children live at [REDACTED] in Chino. We have lived in the Chino Valley for approximately 20 years, with the last five years in our home in Chino. Overall, we love this city and are very thankful for all you both do for our family's safety and quality of life at and near our home. I am writing this to ask for your help regarding extreme illegal firework usage by the neighbors behind our home.

Since we moved into our home in 2020, the neighbors behind us, at [REDACTED] in Chino, fire illegal fireworks on and around July 4. I know this is a common occurrence in the city and that you are working to enforce against this usage. However, our neighbor's firework usage is very extreme and has caused injury to my family and damage to our home.

On multiple occasions, flaming firework shells have struck my daughters, my son, and my nieces. We have also had non-exploded fireworks (i.e., "duds") land in our firepit, only to explode on us when we had a small fire in the backyard. This has caused my children to experience minor burns and significant fear that candidly, ruins this festive holiday for them.

Firework shells also fill my pool each year and have stained the plaster, causing irreparable damage. They fill up our yard and land on our roof, falling to the ground throughout the year on windy days. When they fall, they are hazardous to our dog who chews on the fireworks before we can find them. This is not an insignificant amount of firework shells and red powder. To give you an example of the magnitude of the amount of fireworks that lands in my yard, last year, I filled two five-gallon buckets with firework casings from my pool. This is in addition to all the red powder that we have to clean from our yard, grass, travel trailer, and vehicles. Our immediate neighbors all experience the same need to clean up after our inconsiderate neighbors. One neighbor had a large glass frame fall from his wall last July 4, due to the percussion from the large mortar shell. This shattered all over their living room.

It is abundantly clear that each and every one of these were launched from our Cypress Avenue neighbors front yard, as we can see the path of travel right into our yards (while still glowing red).

Each of the past five years, I have called the police to report his illegal activity. I'm told that there is no way to show where it is coming from. This is a very disappointing message, particularly considering that I have provided video that clearly shows the

home of the offender and the path of travel for the fireworks. Additionally, it is peculiar that when we've called the police, somehow the neighbors know when the police cruiser is coming down the street, as we've seen them sprint out, grab the illegal fireworks, and run back into the house just in time. I am unsure if they are somehow connected to the police department or if they place people at the ends of Cypress Avenue to alert them. I've also tried to let them know that they are assaulting my children with their fireworks, and I've been met with profane responses.

My family, unfortunately, lived through the home explosion in Ontario a few years ago. My wife teaches at, and my children attend, Ontario Christian School. That day, windows broke at the school due to the explosion that I believe resulted in fatalities and tremendous property damage. This experience certainly contributes to the stress that my family experiences from the illegal activity of my neighbors.

In my read of California Health and Safety Code Section 12700, a person who possesses more than 100 pounds of dangerous fireworks is subject to up to one year of imprisonment and a fine between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Based upon the firework display we've seen for the past five years, I cannot fathom that they have less than 100 pounds of dangerous fireworks. We believe it to be thousands of pounds of fireworks. I am including a link to an iCloud file that contains several videos and images that show this illegal activity. I have shown these to Chino PD in the past and am happy to share them and others via another method if helpful.

[REDACTED]

The Cypress neighbor's firework display involves simultaneous mortar shell explosions the entire night, including a lengthy finale that has dozens of simultaneous, huge explosions for many minutes. Based upon the magnitude of the neighbor's firework display, I am confident that an error in their execution would clearly lead to fatalities and significant property damage. Absent catastrophic failure of these explosives, it has already caused injury to my family and damage to my home, pool, travel trailer, and vehicles. This past year, we installed solar panels, and I'm very concerned of damage to this expensive addition. Aside from the damage, I spend almost 10 hours per year cleaning my yard and pool after my neighbors make a mess of it. This year, it will cost me money to pay someone to clean it, as we will gone.

This year, we will be out of town for July 4 and my wife and I are very worried about our home. We are asking for your help. Knowing that it is highly probable that the residents of [REDACTED] have a significant amount of illegal fireworks and will launch them on July 4, I ask for close observation and enforcement this year. They are knowingly assaulting us and our homes. This has been allowed to slide for too long and I need to escalate this to both of your attention before we have an explosion comparable to the one in Ontario. Please don't allow that to happen to my home and to our city.

While I am the one writing this, I am not alone in my frustration and fear related to this annual assault from our neighbors. Many of my neighbors share this concern and

frustration. Candidly, as much as we love living in the city of Chino, we do not feel safe this time of year.

Thank you for your help and please let me know what can be done. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

James Mackenzie

[REDACTED]

Chino, CA 91710

([REDACTED])

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