



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SPRINGFIELD, OH (June 26, 2020)**

**Officials Urge Caution as Fireworks Use Skyrockets**

Springfield City officials are urging citizens to refrain from lighting fireworks, citing safety, public health, property and legal issues. Complaints to police related to fireworks has surged this season by nearly 700 percent, according to Springfield Police Division records.

“The Fourth of July is a time of celebration, and we don’t wish to discourage anyone from observing the holiday, but we want the festivities to be safe,” said Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck. “The use of fireworks increases the chance of injury, could lead to property damage, and the noise is a public nuisance and harmful to those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and to animals.”

Between May 1 and June 23, 2019, police received 25 calls related to fireworks; during the same time frame in 2020, police received 199 calls.

The use of fireworks is prohibited by state law and city ordinance, and those found in possession of and/or using illegal fireworks are subject to arrest.

Citizens who wish to report use of fireworks are asked to contact the Springfield Police Division at 937-324-7865.

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