

**From:** [Antoine S](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** 4th of July  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:34:44 PM

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Please cancel the 4th of July and please do not let people buy fireworks.

We have enough of a crisis with Coronavirus and fire season approaching.

The last thing we need is fireworks displays anywhere this year.

Diane Sayegh

**From:** [Jennifer Sedna](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Cc:** [una.glass.seb@sonic.net](mailto:una.glass.seb@sonic.net); [ps.sebcc@gmail.com](mailto:ps.sebcc@gmail.com); [Michael Carnacchi](#); [sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com); [Neysa Hinton](#); [Lehla Irwin](#)  
**Subject:** 7. TUPS - Retail Fireworks Stands (Responsible Department: Fire)  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 3:01:42 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers of Sebastopol,

I strongly encourage you to consider allowing for retail sales of fireworks this year. Our community, and most especially our children, are in need of some form of summer celebration, some form of an annual rhythm. The children have been greatly impacted by the shelter-in-place and this would allow for them to have some level of normalcy.

Additionally, many of our non-profits sorely need the funding. Most fundraising events have been canceled, and for some organizations, such as the Sebastopol Sea Serpents, there is no way to make up for these funds when in-person swim meets are required.

By their nature, individual fireworks will allow for social separation. By keeping the fireworks legal, it will also not encourage illegal sales and use of fireworks.

Your community, your residents, your parents, and most especially the children of Sebastopol, will be able to create some great memories of the summer of 2020 due to your level-headed decision-making on this.

I would also like to add that:

- State-approved fireworks are not the problem in Sebastopol...illegal fireworks are the problem
- Restricting use of state-approved fireworks will not lead to less illegal fireworks
- The City should participate in the "Nail'em" Illegal Fireworks Reporting smartphone app. The City of Rohnert Park *very* effectively used this last year.
- Banning all fireworks requires Sebastopol to increase staff for Police and Fire during the holiday, instead of just citing illegal fireworks, they are now citing ALL.
- The City would lose revenue from our sales.
- Our non-profits supports the City of Sebastopol and surrounding communities.
- SSS is the leading community program for drowning prevention.
- Exposure at our fireworks stands helps build support and membership for our non profit.
- According to the CDC, "Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States."
- Our team members lead the way in drowning prevention skills, as well as create lifeguards, swim lesson instructors, High School and College athletes, and pay it forward to future generations learning life-saving skills

Thank you,  
Jennifer Sedna

Resident on Dufranc and mother of an 11 year old Sebastopol Sea Serpent who relies on swimming for her wholeness and health, and really wants to get back in that pool with her coaches and friends when the SIP is lifted! :)



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Kathy Morris](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda #7: discussion of Fireworks  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 3:54:24 PM

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To Whom it may concern regarding the sale of Fireworks in Sebastopol,

Sebastopol Sea Serpents has a yearly fundraiser which is selling fireworks. It's the biggest fundraiser they have and it helps support Ives pool. SSS teaches children of all ages to swim and has been huge in teaching water safety. It has come to our attention the sale of fireworks is in question for the city of Sebastopol. It would be a huge mistake to take the fireworks away and would also cause the City to lose money As the sale of fireworks increases revenue for the city. Since it is one of Sebastopol Sea Serpents's biggest fundraisers it would be a huge detriment to them and would take something very special away from the children.

In the past when the sale of fireworks has been called into question, the Sebastopol fire department stated that it was not the Legal fireworks that was causing issues but it was the Illegal fireworks that caused problems. The police department would also have to increase their patrol as they would be looking for the use of all fireworks and not just the use of illegal ones.

Since we are shelter in place and doing whatever we can for COVID-19 everything would be set up accordingly. Sebastopol Sea Serpents would have masks and gloves available and they would be promoting social distancing. Everything a small business must do to prevent COVID-19 would be done during the sale of fireworks. I am asking you to please allow fireworks in Sebastopol. Sebastopol Sea Serpents has helped my niece. She learned to swim, help others, and everything we taught her was emphasized with the Sebastopol Sea Serpents . They help so many kids and so many adults and the sale of fireworks helps them to continue doing so. Please don't let COVID-19 take away anything else.

Thank you for listening,  
Kathy Morris

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Scott Klinger](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda point 7  
**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2020 6:28:33 PM

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City Counsel May 19, 2020 Agenda

In reference to the agenda for the above referenced meeting subject 7, I'd like to voice my opinion as a citizen of Sebastopol to continue to allow the sale of Safe and Sane fireworks for fundraising purposes. These fireworks are safe and have been part of a Sebastopol tradition for the 40 years I have lived in Sebastopol. They allow important clubs and veterans who have served us to continue to hold events that are important to our community.

It would a tragedy to decline these organizations their right to hold such fundraising events with the fireworks as their main source of funding for their cause. So many cuts have been made I. Schools and after school programs that they truly are running out of options.

Please do the right thing.

Thanks,  
Scott Klinger

**From:** [Alexa Jayne](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** CITY COUNCIL – MAY 19, 2020 AGENDA  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 1:49:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [save fireworks in Sebastopol letter 2020.docx](#)

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May 18, 2020

Sebastopol City Council

Mayor Patrick Slayter

Vice Mayor Una Glass

Michael Carnacchi

Sarah Glade Gurney

Neysa Hinton

7120 Bodega Avenue

Sebastopol, CA 95472

RE: Regular Calendar Agenda Item 7; Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Alexa Jayne, and I am a coach/employee of the Sebastopol Sea Serpents and an Analy Class of 2013 graduate. I am speaking to ask for your approval of Temporary Use Permits for Retail Fireworks Stands.

Although our organization has received a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program to protect our staff's temporarily, many of our families are struggling.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has forced our nonprofit to temporarily close. Additionally, many of our families continue to suffer a severe loss of income.

**Our annual fireworks fundraiser allows** the Sebastopol Sea Serpents swim team to offer financial assistance for families in need. This way, every child and family that wants to learn to swim or improve their swimming skills has the ability to participate in the Sebastopol Sea Serpents, regardless of their ability to pay.

Swimmers learn to link quality of effort with quality of results, work cooperatively and unselfishly with others, value persistence, set goals, enjoy their achievement, and make intelligent choices and decisions.

We do not want families decide if they can afford our after school program. We want to be able to expand our hardship program to take care of our community needs.

Due to the state of the economy, donations are down and grants and sponsorship funding we rely on has been redirected to fight COVID-19.

With the temporary closure as well as Ives pool we have been forced to cancel all of our fundraisers that help us fund our hardship program. The fireworks booth we run is our biggest fundraiser of the year and will help us continue to help our families.

Please approve Retail Fireworks Permits.

Sincerely,

Alexa Jayne

Sebastopol Sea Serpents

**From:** [chris](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Fireworks support  
**Date:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 6:16:05 PM

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Salutations,

I do appreciate the cities concern regarding the unsafe use of legal and illegal fireworks and the threat they pose to fires and injuries, however I need to point out that a simple review of the incidents over that past decade the overwhelming number of injuries and fires are caused by illegal fireworks and not those sold legally. In reviewing multiple law enforcement records in Sonoma County it is very hard to find any fires or injuries caused by legal safe and sane fireworks. In light of these facts, and emotions notwithstanding, it is illogical to try and ban the sale of fireworks that not only bring enjoyment and honor a long standing tradition, but also provide much needed funds for organizations that provide great benefit to the city of Sebastopol, especially the young, I request you to please ignore the emotional outpourings of those opposed to fireworks and review the facts and base your decision based upon data and allow us to continue to support our cities organizations and our communities traditions.

Thank you,

Chris Cahn



**From:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**To:** ["Patrick Slayter \(ps.sebcc@gmail.com\)"; Una Glass \(una.glass.seb@sonic.net\); Michael Carnacchi; sarahgurney.seb@gmail.com; Neysa Hinton](#)  
**Cc:** [Lawrence McLaughlin; Bill Braga; Gregory Devore](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment on agenda item seven - Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 4:34:00 PM

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Good afternoon  
Please see email below.  
Thank you  
Mary

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 4:33 PM  
**To:** Mary Gourley <mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org>  
**Subject:** Public comment on agenda item seven - Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands

Dear City council members

I feel that the sale of state-approved fireworks in Sebastopol should be allowed, as these fireworks are not the problem, illegal fireworks are. Restricting the use of state-approved fireworks will not lead to less illegal fireworks. Banning all fireworks would require Sebastopol to increase staff for Police and Fire during the holiday.

The sale of state-approved fireworks is one of our non-profits (Sebastopol Sea Serpents – SSS) largest fundraisers and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will need to cancel many of our other fundraisers, including the scheduled spring swim meet. Additionally, with the state of the economy, business donations will be down and sponsorship funding we rely on receiving has been redirected to fight COVID-19. Our annual fireworks fundraiser is vital and allows the swim team to offer financial assistance for families in need.

We feel the fireworks booths fit somewhere between a mall kiosk vendor and a swap meet vendor, both are being allowed as “Stage 2 non-essential retail” vendors. The other things to note are that our stands will have outside, touchless ordering and minimize contact since the customers won’t be able to handle the product until it is purchased, reducing the chance for contamination spread. Each booth will get a “COVID kit” with a box of

masks, hand sanitizer, chalk for marking the lot and tape for possible lane marking.

Our non-profit supports the City of Sebastopol and surrounding communities. According to the CDC, "Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States." SSS is the leading community program for drowning prevention. Our team members lead the way in drowning prevention skills, as well as create lifeguards, swim lesson instructors, High School and College athletes, and pay it forward to future generations learning life-saving skills

Without this fundraising we could lose the swim team in Sebastopol.

Kind regards,

Liz Johnson

Sebastopol resident and parent of two swimmers



## GRAVENSTEIN LIONS CLUB

PO Box 572 • Sebastopol • CA • 95473

Dear Sebastopol City Council,

On behalf of the Sebastopol Gravenstein Lions Club and the residents of Sebastopol, I would like you to consider to continue with fireworks sales this year, assuming the shelter in place order is lifted by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Since the Kiwanis Club and most other communities have canceled this year's large fireworks shows, at least give the people of Sebastopol a way to celebrate safely with some fireworks. We are working on ways to make sure it is safe for both the public and our volunteers following all the health guidelines for social distancing. TNT, our fireworks provider has supplied us with guidelines which we feel are more than reasonable and can be followed.

Our booth, is 8' X 20' so is large enough to accommodate up to 3 people in the booth at one time and stay socially distanced with only minimal exposure or closeness. We normally split our booth in half with product, so all product is the same on each side. This will keep our volunteers from passing one another constantly. We will be installing protective plastic over our normal screened areas to help protect everyone as well. We will come up with a more complete plan if needed and would welcome any feedback from the council to improve our procedures. We are also talking to our supplier to see if there is a way to take orders online and to be paid for when picked up.

We would also like to propose limiting the number of selling days from 7 to 4, with sales permitted only from July 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks for your consideration,

Michael Stanford, President

Gravenstein Lions Club

**From:** [Michael Stanford](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda Item 7 for May 19th, 2020 Sebastopol City Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:24:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Seb. CC Re Fireworks 2020.doc](#)

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Dear City Council and City Clerk,

Please see the attached letter from the Sebastopol Gravenstien Lions Club for comment on Agenda Item 7 for tonight's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Michael Stanford  
President,  
Sebastopol Gravenstien Lions Club

**From:** [Liz and Lee Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on agenda item seven - Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 4:33:32 PM

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Dear City council members

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Without this fundraising we could lose the swim team in Sebastopol.

Kind regards,

Liz Johnson

Sebastopol resident and parent of two swimmers

**From:** [Lehla Irwin](#)  
**To:** [Mary Gourley](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regular Calendar Agenda Item 7; Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands  
**Date:** Monday, May 18, 2020 1:29:10 PM

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## CITY COUNCIL - MAY 19, 2020 AGENDA

May 18, 2020

Sebastopol City Council  
Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Vice Mayor Una Glass  
Michael Carnacchi  
Sarah Glade Gurney  
Neysa Hinton  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

RE: Regular Calendar Agenda Item 7; Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Lehla Irwin, and I have been coaching Sebastopol Sea Serpents since March 2002. I am speaking to ask for your approval of Temporary Use Permits for Retail Fireworks Stands.

Historically, when the pool was threatened with closures in the early 1990's, Sebastopol Sea Serpents merged their non-profit organization with another non-profit created by Sebastopol Sea Serpents: W.S.C.S. (Western Sonoma County Swimmers), an umbrella organization, to keep the pool open. In 2003, the team split from WSCS, as it became strong enough to operate independently as a nonprofit community organization.

As a non-profit charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, the Sebastopol Sea Serpents swim team relies on many fundraisers throughout the year, as well as monthly dues to supplement our program costs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will need to cancel many of these fundraisers, including a scheduled spring swim meet hosting over 200 athletes requiring the help of over 100 volunteers per day, a demanding project that raises less than one-fifth the amount of our fireworks fundraiser.

In Stage 2 of California's Resilience Roadmap, permits nonessential retail and temporary sales locations like vendor carts, kiosks, vendor tables, tents and other displays that comply with appropriate physical distancing guidelines.

Protocol laid out by our vendor is equal to and sometimes greater than those imposed on the retailers currently open and operating in Sonoma County.

We believe families will be able to purchase state-approved fireworks as safely as groceries with measures to protect volunteers, prevent crowds, keep customers at least six feet apart, prevent unnecessary contact, and increase contactless sales and sanitation.

While large gatherings are not permitted, such as the Kiwani's show at Analy, we hope families that are sheltering-in-place may enjoy each other and celebrate Independence Day safely while supporting our nonprofit fundraiser.

Please approve Temporary Sales PermitS for Retail Fireworks Stands.

Thank you for your time and service to the community.

Lehla Irwin

Head Coach  
Sebastopol Sea Serpent  
[lehla.irwin@sea-serpents.org](mailto:lehla.irwin@sea-serpents.org)

[www.seaserpents.swimtopia.com](http://www.seaserpents.swimtopia.com)

*This email & any attachments to it may be confidential & are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author & do not necessarily represent those of Sebastopol Sea Serpents. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must neither take action based upon its contents, nor copy or show it to anyone. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.*

May 18, 2020

Sebastopol City Council  
Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Vice Mayor Una Glass  
Michael Carnacchi  
Sarah Glade Gurney  
Neysa Hinton  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

RE: Regular Calendar Agenda Item 7; Discussion, Consideration and Direction to Staff on Temporary Use Permits – Retail Fireworks Stands

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Please approve Retail Fireworks Permits.

Sincerely,  
Alexa Jayne  
Sebastopol Sea Serpents