

Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Services
Subject: Letter from the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club Regarding the Annual Fireworks Show
Recommendation: That the City Council Approves the Letter from the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club to Conduct their Annual Fireworks Show on July 3, 2022
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost: None

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION:

This item is to request that the City Council approves the Letter from the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club to conduct their Annual Fireworks Show on July 3, 2022, located on private property of the West Sonoma County Union High School District, Analy High School, 6950 Analy Avenue, Sebastopol.

BACKGROUND:

The Kiwanis Club is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit charitable organization run by a group of volunteers who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. For the past 45 years the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club has been permitted use of the Analy High School stadium and baseball field for the 3rd of July Fireworks Event. The fireworks show is a huge community event that attracts local community members from Sebastopol and the greater Sonoma County Area. The profits from the Annual Fireworks Show are given back to the community with more than 50% going directly to local students.

Direct Benefits include but are not limited to:

- 9- \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors from all campuses
- 3- \$1,000 donations to Project Graduation at all campuses
- Grant Awards to various departments and athletic groups and booster organizations

Due to the global COVID Pandemic the 3rd of July fireworks celebration has been canceled for the past two years. The Sebastopol Kiwanis club has managed to continue to financially support the local community and the students even though the event had been canceled.

At the City of Sebastopol, City Council meeting on May 18, 2021, the Council approved adoption of Ordinance Number 1133. Ordinance 1133 repeals prior ordinances allowing the sale and use of "Safe and Sane" fireworks during regulated hours. The revised ordinance includes newly added language allowing one permit in each calendar year for a fireworks display show. The City of Sebastopol is responsible for permitting the fireworks show with the licensed and bonded Pyrotechnics Company approved by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The West Sonoma County High School District is responsible for permitting the use of their school facilities to host the event.

At the City of Sebastopol, City Council meeting on July 28, 2021, the Council eliminated the Lottery Policy Application Process and permanently assigned the Annual Fireworks Show to the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club with the following requirements:

- By January 15th of each year the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club will provide to the City information as to whether the Kiwanis will conduct or not the Annual Fireworks Show
- The Sebastopol Kiwanis Club holds the First Right of Refusal
- The Annual Fireworks Show will be scheduled on July 3rd of each year
- Other non-profits would be invited and included in the event as appropriate

DISCUSSION:

Fire Chief Braga met with all three of the non-profits that had previously sold Safe & Sane Fireworks during the week prior to the 4th of July. The Sebastopol Lions Club, Sebastopol Sea Serpents, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3919, all indicated that they support the Sebastopol Kiwanis, and it was the unanimous decision of all three non-profits to support the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club in their continuance of their Annual Fireworks Show.

Public Comment:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report, such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

Public Notice:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council Approves the Letter from the Sebastopol Kiwanis Club to Conduct their Annual Fireworks Show on July 3, 2022, located on private property of the West Sonoma County Union High School District, Analy High School, 6950 Analy Avenue, Sebastopol.

Attachments:

Sebastopol Kiwanis Club Letter



Kiwanis[®]

Club of Sebastopol

January 13, 2022

Chief Bill Braga
Sebastopol Volunteer Fire Dept.
Bodega Ave.
Sebastopol, Ca. 95472

Dear Chief Braga:

The Kiwanis Club of Sebastopol would like to inform you and the Sebastopol City Council that we are moving forward with our plans to hold the (normally) annual Fireworks and Music Festival at West County High School on July 3, 2022.

We will be in communication with the Sonoma County Health Dept, the School District , the Sebastopol Police and your department to make sure that we are in compliance with whatever Covid-related regulations are in place at the time of the event.

Hopefully, the current “wave” will start to subside and by summer we will be able to hold a happy and safe event.

Best,

Patti Stack
Event Co-ordinator
Kiwaniis Club of Sebastopol