

Asset Forfeiture – Illegal Fireworks



1. PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Apply CA Health and Safety Code 11470 to Illegal Fireworks, allowing “Asset Forfeiture” to be used as a law enforcement tool to eliminate wide scale bomb traffic in California.

2. PROBLEM.

As Deputy Chief John Todd of L.A. County Fire has noted: Illegal Fireworks is a booming trade because profits are high, and punishments are low.

Asset Forfeiture would slap illegal firework trading/using in the face, put the state’s foot down on an explosively bad practice of personal firework use.

One that hurts quality of life for vets and others with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), Animals/Pets and their owners, All Fire Safety officials and experts nationwide who warn of fire dangers of personal and illegal fireworks; Law Enforcement trying to “keep the peace” and eliminate dangerous threats.

Right now, just focusing on L.A. County arson investigators and their great ability to put an effective task force against fireworks together: despite their talent and effectiveness, there is not enough money, resources, personnel and hazardous waste storage space to put the dent law enforcement has put into “controlled substances” through Health and Safety Code 11469-11495.

3. SOLUTION.

Applying Asset Forfeiture to Illegal Firework law enforcement would cripple the illegal business, hit illegal sellers in the wallet—making the risks so high to get into the black market trade, that most would get out of it, that are now in it relatively risk-free.

ALSO: Assets forfeited by illegal manufacturers and sellers would be recycled by Illegal Firework Task Forces, like that put together by L.A. County Fire.

They would Grow with every bust, until they would have the resources to fund their anti-firework task force 365-days of the year!!

4. COST.

This would only bring Illegal money into the State of California—turn it around into legal ventures—ideally a year-round task force to combat illegal firework manufacture, trading and using.

Legal Costs to propose a bill and change the Health and Safety Code—paperwork bills, mail and clerk costs only.

5. ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT.

L.A. County Fire, Cal Fire/CA Fire Marshall and office, National Fire Protection Association, L.A. Fire Department, LAPD, Law Enforcement state-wide, Sheriff Departments, Veterans Groups, Vets with PTSD, Civilians with PTSD, Animal Rights Groups, Animals/Pets and their Owners, Law Enforcement Fund-Raising groups and Unions;

Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks (<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/holidays/fireworks/alliance-to-stop-consumer-fireworks>)

<http://www.aap.org/>

<http://www.aafp.org/>

<http://www.aao.org/>

<http://www.aaphp.org/>

<http://www.ameriburn.org/>

<http://www.acep.org/>

<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/>

<http://www.microsurg.org/>

<http://www.assh.org/>

<http://www.injurycenter.org/>

<http://www.childinjurypreventionalliance.org/>

<http://www.ena.org/>

<http://www.fdsoa.org/>

Military with PTSD: <https://www.facebook.com/MilitarywithPTSD>

<http://www.firearson.com/>

<http://www.iafc.org/>

<http://www.iaff.org/>

<http://www.nfpa.org/ifma>
<http://www.nfpa.org/metro>
<http://www.napnap.org/>
<http://www.firemarshals.org/>
<http://www.nasn.org/>
<http://www.nvfc.org/>
<http://www.preventblindness.org/>
<http://www.churchofmary.org> – and other religious groups

| <u>LIKELY POSITIONS:</u> | <u>Support</u> | <u>Oppose</u> |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Republican Caucus</u> ----- | ___ Yes ___ | _____ |
| <u>Department of Finance</u> ----- | ___ Yes ___ | _____ |

Key Legislators (Policy/Fiscal Committee Chairs, Etc.)

Governor's Office, Cal Fire/CA Fire Marshall, Department of Finance, CA Attorney General

6. ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT.

1. *To Fight fireworks year-round, more funding for talented anti-fireworks task forces must be generated.*
2. *For Criminals drawn to illegal fireworks, the worst news they could hear is that "Forfeiture of Assets" is coming to their black market.*
3. *Peace will reign, community members across California will be "forced" out of their houses on the Fourth of July, recall they are part of a Great Community called America, and Celebrate its glorious Birth Together at Professional Firework Shows, instead of partaking in criminal acts to odd hours, starting in early June, ending in the late nights of August!!!!!!*

7. ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION.

Some Lobbyists from national firework businesses might come around, try to influence a vote to keep fireworks booming, but mostly the opposition will be from criminal and illegal elements.

8. ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION.

1. *Fireworks aren't that bad!! This is a Free Country, man!!*
2. *Fireworks just aren't as bad as illegal drugs!!*
3. *The state has plenty of money to fight fireworks; it just doesn't want to spend it.*

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

1. Please talk to an amazing self-ascribed “Soldier” on the L.A. County Fire arson investigation team, and CA “SME” (Subject Matter Expert), Greg Dahlmeier on how efficient and effective L.A. Fire’s diverse anti-firework task force operates for the limited time funds and storage space allow:

*Greg Dahlmeier Phones: (213) 220-4921 (Office Cell)
(213) 433-1011 (Arson Office, shared with Captain Smith, Dan
Demeyer, and others on the Arson team)*

email: greg.dahlmeier@fire.lacounty.gov

2. Talk to Greg’s boss, Deputy Chief John Todd, also very knowledgeable and willing to go over stats of the effective task force—when put together and operational.

Chief Todd Phone: 323-881-2461 (office)

email: john.todd@fire.lacounty.gov

Both those experts and I concur, that the illegal trade would be crippled, and that California’s fire safety would greatly be improved—if Asset Forfeiture was applied to illegal firework traffic.

10. CONTACT.

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