



RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prepare, Prevent, Protect



To: Mayor Steve Allender and members of City Council

From: Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief

Subject: City sponsored fireworks display

Date: June 6, 2016

The 4th of July or Independence Day was a holiday established for Americans to celebrate their independence from England on July 4, 1776. It has served as a federal holiday since 1941. It is important for all citizens to have the ability to observe the 4th of July and in no better way than a fireworks display.

The City of Rapid City has sponsored a public fireworks display for the enjoyment of all as a way for our residents and visitors to observe the 4th of July in a safe and enjoyable setting. The City's show gained in popularity and importance when Mount Rushmore elected to not offer a public fireworks display in 2010. Traditionally, the City of Rapid City held its fireworks display on the 4th of July, however, due to a number of factors, experimented with moving the show to New Years Eve.

On March 21, the City Council directed staff to move the time of the show back to the July 4th timeframe and research options for locations within the City with an emphasis on a central location. A small group of City staff was assembled to work on a show for this year. A number of criteria were used to determine the safest, most effective time and location for the display. Criteria included:

Possible Dates on or around the 4th of July

Size and intensity of the show as it relates to the necessary footprint

Availability of fireworks vendors

Potential for vegetation fires and the Fire Department's ability to control them

Police Department's ability to establish a perimeter and maintaining security

Environmental impact

Financial impact

Cost center placement



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Utilizing this criteria, staff identified three potential locations for the fireworks display to be discharged:

- 1) 5th Street Overflow Lot (SE corner of 5th street and New York)
- 2) Executive Golf Course (NW of Omaha and I-190)
- 3) City Polo Fields (NW of San Francisco and Campbell street)

Due to the limited time frame and previous site experience, the decision was made to discharge the fireworks display from the Executive Golf Course on Saturday July 2, 2016 with a rain date on July 3, 2016. This date was chosen based on availability of the fireworks vendor. A total of six vendors were solicited to produce the 2016 Rapid City show, with five declining due to previous commitments, staffing and equipment limitations. A one year contract has been signed with Pyrotechnic Display Inc. out of Clear Lake, MN. The amount of the contract is for \$24,990. The show is scheduled for 20-21 minutes in length and will be choreographed to music which will be broadcast over a local radio station. Pyrotechnic Display, Inc. is a reputable company and has done fireworks shows for Rapid City in previous years.

The Fire Department, Police Department and Parks and Recreation will continue to identify and determine the necessary resources for the event and will plan accordingly. All agreed that safety was paramount and agreed to adequately staff the departments to mitigate and respond to the associated risks related to fire/medical response concerns and crowd control.

In addition, Staff recommends soliciting bids to secure a three year contract with a fireworks vendor for July 4th shows in 2017, 2018 and 2019 with an annual amount of \$30,000 to be placed in either the Mayor's budget or City Council. Bid document preparation and solicitation of bidders to secure this contract will need to be initiated in August, 2016 with a contract awarded prior to January 1st, 2017.

Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief