

Richmond Police Department

MEMORANDUM



TO: Community Partners

FROM: Captain J. Lopez

DATE: August 14, 2025

SUBJECT: **Update – RPD 4th of July Fireworks Enforcement Operation**

Dear Community Partners,

Thank you for your continued partnership and support during the Richmond Police Department's July 4th, 2025, Fireworks Enforcement and Suppression Operation. Your involvement played a vital role in helping us take an important step forward in addressing the growing issue of illegal fireworks and ensuring a safer holiday for Richmond residents.

This year's operation focused on two primary objectives:

1. Deter the use of illegal fireworks
2. Maintain a strong, proactive police presence in neighborhoods historically impacted during this holiday

While we acknowledge that the volume of fireworks discharged by community members remained excessive and, at times, overwhelming, this operation was a necessary starting point. We are committed to building on this effort and achieving stronger outcomes in the years ahead.

Operational Highlights:

- **Personnel Deployment:** 23 officers were deployed throughout the city on July 4th and into the early morning hours of July 5th. All officers scheduled for duty were present.
- **Special Assignment Officers:** Targeted patrols were conducted in key areas supported by real-time aerial surveillance from our Drone Unit. The drone served as a rapid-response tool that provided officers with live information to direct resources efficiently.
- **Zero-Tolerance Enforcement:** Officers operated under a zero-tolerance approach, resulting in direct enforcement actions where violations were observed.

Enforcement Outcomes:

- Arrests: 1 arrest (firearm possession charges)
- Citations: 15 fireworks-related citations and/or reports
- Fireworks Calls for Service: 249
- Shots Fired Calls: 19
- Recovered Firearms: 3
- Estimated Street Value of Seized Fireworks: Over \$10,000

On July 8th, RPD held a debrief meeting with 18 attendees, including community members, department representatives, and Councilmember Soheila Bana. The consensus from that meeting reflected some positive trends: the days leading up to and following the 4th appeared calmer

compared to previous years. However, the night of July 4th itself remained consistent with past activity levels in some areas.

While there is still much work to do, this year's campaign laid the groundwork for more robust and targeted strategies in the future. We are grateful for your support, feedback, and partnership as we continue to strengthen public safety in our city.

Sincerely,

Captain John Lopez
Richmond Police Department
Patrol Operations Bureau

1. RPD 25-0006133
2. RPD 25-0006500
3. RPD 25-0006720
4. RPD 25-0006723
5. RPD 25-0006724
6. RPD 25-0006725
7. RPD 25-0006727
8. RPD 25-0006728
9. RPD 25-0006732
10. RPD 25-0006735
11. RPD 25-0006736
12. RPD 25-0006738
13. RPD 25-0006739
14. RPD 25-0006733
15. RPD 25-0006481