



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

July 2, 2019

Dear Councilmember Herbold,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Mayor regarding the use of illegal fireworks in Seattle during the Fourth of July holiday.

As you know, the Seattle Police and Fire Departments focus on the problems associated with the use of illegal fireworks in Seattle and attend to public safety issues each year.

Each year, Seattle Police and Seattle Fire work with our many local law enforcement and public safety partners to emphasize to the public that fireworks are potentially dangerous and can cause personal harm and harm to property. They focus specifically on issues like the risk of bodily harm and the potential for brush fires. Today the Seattle Police and Fire Departments will hold a joint press conference with partners to warn the public of the illegality and risks of personal fireworks. The Mayor, in addition to other City departments, will amplify this important message and we hope that you and other members of City Council will as well.

The Fourth of July is an incredibly busy day for SFD and SPD given the number of people in our parks, waterways, and other public spaces, including tens of thousands who gather to watch fireworks on Lake Union. As a result, officers will focus on priority calls where there is an imminent risk to people and/or property. While officers at location will enforce fireworks prohibitions, SPD does not have the capacity to respond to every non-emergency complaint related to illegal fireworks.

As always, if you or your constituents have any emergency concerns regarding fireworks, they should call 911. If the situation is not an emergency, we encourage you to contact the SPD non-emergency number at (206) 625-5011. We have their assurances that they will do their best to respond and continue to make our communities' safety their top priority.

Thank you again for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Kline'.

Julie Kline
Senior Public Safety Advisor
Office of Mayor Jenny Durkan