



24-5350

DATE: May 7, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: James R. Williams, County Executive
SUBJECT: 2024 Fireworks Grant Award Recommendations

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations from the Office of the County Executive relating to supporting fireworks events in Santa Clara County. (LA-1)

Possible action:

- a. Receive report relating to the 2024 Fireworks Grant Program funding award recommendations.
- b. Approve the 2024 Fireworks Grant Program funding awards.
- c. Direct Administration to notify and disburse the 2024 Fireworks Grant Program funds to awarded event sponsors.
- d. Approve delegation of authority to the County Executive, or designee, to execute 2024 fireworks grant agreements pursuant to grant terms and conditions, in a cumulative amount not to exceed \$25,000, and a contract term that starts no earlier than May 7, 2024 and ends no later than July 5, 2024, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on July 5, 2024.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact to the County General Fund resulting from approval of the recommended actions. An ongoing appropriation of \$25,000 was previously allocated to the Office of the County Executive's operating budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

The Office of the County Executive is bringing forth the 2024 Fireworks Grant Program award recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

2024 Fireworks Grant Program Applications

A total of four applications were received. The amount requested and supervisorial district in which the event is to be held are as follows:

Name of Organization — Name of Fireworks Event	Amount of Funding Requested	Event Location - Supervisorial District
Independence Day Celebration, Inc. — Morgan Hill Freedom Fest Fireworks on the Green	\$ 5,000	City of Morgan Hill - District 1
City of Gilroy — City of Gilroy Fireworks Display	\$ 5,000	City of Gilroy - District 1
City of Milpitas — July 4th - Red, White & Boom! Fireworks & Concert	\$ 5,000	City of Milpitas - District 3
City of Santa Clara — Santa Clara Fireworks	\$ 5,000	City of Santa Clara - District 4
Total	\$ 20,000	

Panel Award Recommendations

Four County representatives were extended invitations to the Fireworks Grant Award Panel, three of whom were available to participate: the Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention from the Santa Clara County Fire Department; a Deputy Director from the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department; and an Administrative Services Manager from the Office of the County Executive. The panel reviewed, evaluated, and reached consensus that each organization was compliant with the rules set forth. The following are their funding award recommendations:

Name of Organization — Name of Fireworks Event	Amount of Funding Requested	Funding Award Recommendations
Independence Day Celebration, Inc. — Morgan Hill Freedom Fest Fireworks on the Green	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
City of Gilroy — City of Gilroy Fireworks Display	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
City of Milpitas — July 4th - Red, White & Boom! Fireworks & Concert	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
City of Santa Clara — Santa Clara Fireworks	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000

The panel's rationale for the award recommendations focused on an organization's adherence to the qualifications/criteria for the Fireworks Grant Program, as stated in their applications, including a strong public education component recognizing that illegal fireworks are dangerous and need to be kept out of our communities, and the county as a whole. Each event was deemed to be at least in its second year of existence, open to the public, and family friendly.

It is the panel's recommendation to fully fund the proposals received for the events hosted by the City of Gilroy and the Independence Day Celebration, Inc., in District 1, City of Milpitas in District 3, and City of Santa Clara in District 4, as all four event organizers met all criteria

for receipt of the grant. It is the panel’s recommendation to commingle the funding from District 2 and District 5 (for which no proposals were received) with that of District 1, to fund the events from both applicants from District 1, namely, the City of Gilroy and the Independence Day Celebration, Inc.

Administration acknowledges that the above are recommendations only and the Board reserves the discretion to approve or make changes, as deemed appropriate.

2024 Fireworks Grant Background

In late June 2015, the County received two requests to sponsor local July 4th fireworks events for \$5,000 each—one from the Almaden Valley Women’s Club and the other from the Rotary Club of San José. As there was insufficient time to bring this item to the Board before the July 2015 recess, County Executive Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., announced at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 24, 2015 (Item No. 6) that he would seek ratification of these sponsorships in August 2015.

At the meeting on August 25, 2015 (Item No. 19), the Board ratified the County sponsorship of the two July 2015 fireworks events and accepted Administration’s report-back in response to then-Vice President Simitian’s request to clarify direction from the previous Fiscal Year specifying one-time funding for fireworks events in July 2014.

At the meeting on November 17, 2015 (Item No. 21), the Board received the report from Administration relating to implementation of a competitive process, with a limited dollar amount, for funding fireworks events and directed Administration to recommend an ongoing appropriation of \$25,000 during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016 Mid-Year Budget process to fund a Fireworks Grant Program.

At the meeting on February 9, 2016 (Item No. 21), the Board approved, as part of the FY 2015-2016 Mid-Year Budget process, the ongoing allocation of \$25,000 to fund County of Santa Clara July 4th fireworks events awarded during the County’s annual competitive process.

At the meeting on May 10, 2016 (Item No. 59), the Board approved Administration’s grant award recommendations for the inaugural year of the Fireworks Grant Program. Since that time, the Fireworks Grant Program recommendations have been brought to the Board every year in May, with the exception of 2020 through 2022, when the program was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action would have a positive impact on children and youth, as measured by the “**Healthy Lifestyle**” and “**Youth Feel Valued by the Community**” indicators. Legally held fireworks events offer children, youth, and families an opportunity to gather outdoors with friends and family to have fun, celebrate the 4th of July, and enjoy fireworks safely.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action would have a positive impact on seniors. Legally held fireworks events offer seniors an opportunity to gather outdoors with friends and family to have fun, celebrate the 4th of July, and enjoy fireworks safely.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action would have positive sustainability implications, as measured by the **“Fostering a healthy environment, protecting resources, and protecting public health, safety and recreation”** indicator, by ensuring that potentially hazardous and flammable materials used in fireworks displays are handled carefully and disposed of appropriately, thereby preventing undue harm to County land and waterways.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The County would not be able to disburse the funding it allocated to support the Fireworks Grant Program it established, thereby preventing the collaboration with local non-profit and municipal entities in encouraging and providing safe, legal venues for fireworks displays.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Clerk of the Board shall notify Jennifer Roth in the Office of the County Executive when processing of this legislative file is complete.