

Dear Ray,

Happy Independence Day! What a tremendous blessing it is to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave! Recently, there have been several controversial issues facing our nation that have caused divisiveness, and in some cases, hatred. Too often we focus on our differences rather than our similarities. That fact is, we are all Americans! On this Independence Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the things that bring us together, let us celebrate as fellow Americans, and let us have grateful hearts for the wonderful freedom we have been blessed with as a nation.

One way we would encourage you to celebrate is by joining us at the **2nd Annual July 4th Fun Festival and Fireworks Show!** As many of you know and remember from last year, this patriotic, fun-filled, family-friendly celebration is held at the beautiful Almaden Lake Park. Given the City's safety-related ban on the use of personal fireworks, this event offers families and people of all ages and backgrounds a safe place to celebrate the birth of our nation.

With plenty of food trucks and beverage booths, vendors, Pete the Magician, the Lyric Theatre Group, and music from the Affordable Cover Act, this year's event will be spectacular! Not to mention the bigger, brighter, and better professional fireworks display that will end the night with a bang!

This year's event will again include a Costume Parade! Categories are: Most Patriotic Family, Most Patriotic Kid (under 12), Most Patriotic Teen, Best Uncle Sam, and Most Unique Costume. Prizes will be given to the first and second place winners in each category. This year, contestants will be pre-judged before the parade begins and winners will be announced at the end of the parade. Plan to gather for pre-judging around 5:00 PM. Location and other details will be included in the Event Program. Make sure you dress up in your best patriotic garb and participate in this fun activity!

IMPORTANT JULY 4th FUN FESTIVAL SAFETY AND COURTESY REMINDERS

We are looking forward to another wonderful event and we want to make sure we keep it that way for years to come. In order to maintain a safe, family-friendly environment for all, there are some things that are prohibited during the event. *Alcohol, illicit drugs, dogs/pets, fireworks, weapons, and glass bottles will NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE PARK.* We will have security at each entrance, and everyone is subject to cooler and/or bag search. Any contraband will be confiscated and those with dogs/pets will be turned away and not allowed into the festival.

Parking is extremely limited, so walk or bike to the event if you can! It's healthier and more convenient! There will be parking available at the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Westfield Oakridge Mall. Even so, parking will be limited. Please remember, if you are parking on neighborhood streets, **DO NOT BLOCK**PEOPLE'S DRIVEWAYS!! We need to be courteous of everyone, and parking in no-parking zones is not only illegal and inconvenient, it creates a safety hazard and may garner you a pricey ticket.

Thank you, in advance for your cooperation and participation! We are excited for another great event!

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Every year, my office receives hundreds of phone calls and emails regarding the use of fireworks in or around their neighbors. *ALL FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE.* It is unfortunate we have to remind people every year of this fact, and even more frustrating that our already limited safety resources are spread even thinner because of those who choose to blatantly break the law. If you, or someone you know are planning on putting on your own fireworks display, please reconsider and/or encourage your friends to do the same. Not only can fireworks cause serious bodily injury, but with our state facing one of the worst droughts we've ever seen, disregarding the law could lead to fires of a catastrophic magnitude! Please, be wise, follow the rules, and celebrate safely at our July 4th Fun Festival!

We are looking forward to an amazing July 4th Fun Festival event and we hope you all join us to celebrate the birth of our nation! Remember, no alcohol or pets are allowed in the event, please consider walking or biking because of limited parking, and dress in your most patriotic ensemble to participate in our Costume Parade! If you don't join us, have a safe and happy 4th of July weekend! God Bless America!

Si	incere	lν	_
0		'y	,

Johnny



Office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis San Jose City Hall 200 E Santa Clara Street - 18th Floor San Jose, CA 95113