



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Gina Gonzalez
Economic Development Director

PHONE: (951) 672-6777

EMAIL: ggonzalez@cityofmenifee.us

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City of Menifee Vote to hold Historic Independence Day Celebration
Fireworks Display on June 27**

MENIFEE, CA — On Thursday night in a Special City Council meeting the City Council voted unanimously to direct City staff to move forward with the City's historic Independence Day Celebration with a fireworks display only and no other event activities. The Council considered this amid COVID-19 social distancing challenges — provided the county and/or state do not ban the display moving forward.

Council members discussed four options presented by Community Services staff, which included: 1) Holding the regular event with additional health & safety measures; #2) Limiting attendance through a ticketed system; #3) Fireworks display only to view from parked cars or nearby homes only and cancel the in-person components and parade; and #4) Cancel the entire event and add a fireworks display to a future event.

The City Council approved Option #3, to host a fireworks display and none of the regular park activities such as the kid's zone, vendors or parade. The option is as a way to assist with resident health and safety and comply with State orders for social distancing and group gatherings.

"Menifee has a long history, well before incorporation, of hosting an Independence Day event which has occurred on the last weekend in June- and the City takes serious pride in celebrating our freedom, our country, our military, our city and neighbors," said District 3 Council member Lesa Sobek.

"We need to continue this piece of our city history to celebrate as a community the best we can, especially during this pandemic, but we need to do it in a way that maintains Menifee's health and safety," said Mayor Bill Zimmerman. "This option also allows the City to save critical revenue for other vital city services, but also provides a mechanism for a community event that Menifee has come to expect and enjoy."

The City Council then directed staff to enhance the show with the cost savings of previous cancelled events due to COVID-19, and only use a small part of the savings to make the historic fireworks show better than years past, as a way to make it up to residents for the community events the City was forced to cancel or postpone this fiscal year because of COVID-19 group gathering restrictions.

"It is very important for the City to celebrate Independence Day especially now, when residents are closed in, complying with social distancing, and having limitations placed on them about interacting with neighbors and other community members," said Mayor Pro Tem Matt Liesemeyer.



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“We need to provide our residents with hope, and some type of normalcy, as we are a very patriotic City, but we can also do it in a safe environment.”

City staff discussed the inclusion of partnering with a radio station to sync music and fireworks displays together, and is considering set-off locations that would provide for greater opportunities for additional parking for more residents to view the show. The proposed Independence Day Fireworks Show is set for Saturday, June 27, and the City plans to send out event details once they are solidified.

For more information on the Independence Day Fireworks Celebration, please contact the City's Community Services Department at (951) 723-3880 or email Jonathan Nicks, Menifee Community Services Director at jnicks@cityofmenifee.us.

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ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 97,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*