

December 6, 2021 – *via email transmission to Committee staff*

My name is Caiolinn Ertel and I lived at 11534 Clematis Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 and reside in Washington State most of the year since this last June. I'll be moving back into that home in July for part of the year. One of the main reasons for moving out west was the summer time fireworks in my neighborhood cause my dogs and myself mental anguish and sleepless nights.

Based on my reading of the laws is that most if not all of the fireworks being set off in my neighborhood do NOT comply with the distances laid out. Penn Hills is mostly residential and the danger of fire is real for these large explosions.

I work early in the morning and go to bed early. I don't complain about noise until about 10 PM but these fireworks, that sound as if there is a war raging in my neighborhood, have gone up past 1 am. I don't bother to call the police if it's a major holiday until Midnight, but I likely should. If it was one or two holidays a year I'd let it go, but they are fired off for any reason and no reason all year but predominately in the summer.

I have two dogs who are totally traumatized by the noise and I have to buy medication to keep them calm, but have to KNOW the fireworks will go off and given the random nature of them going off I often cannot give my dogs their medication soon enough to prevent trauma. I don't suffer from this kind of PTSD, but I imagine there are veterans who do and do NOT appreciate suffering like that.

There is a real danger to our homes, it disturbs the peace that we should all be able to enjoy, it causes untold trauma to neighborhood animals, and to anyone suffering from war like PTSD. Our local police cannot enforce the fireworks laws nor manage to keep up with all those going off after 10 pm IF the local municipality has noise ordinances.

Please consider outlawing these large fireworks, and enacting a state wide noise ordinance to keep our homes quiet after 10 pm (example).

Sincerely,

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