

Proclamation
Two Weeks of Fireworks Safety
June 20-July 6, 2024

Whereas, the National Integrated Drought Information System indicates that 67.05% of Colfax County is currently in Moderate Drought conditions; and

Whereas, in April 2024 the North American Seasonal Fire Assessment noted that Northeastern New Mexico is "Above Normal" for fire assessment and precipitation is forecast to be below normal for portions of the Southwest and west Texas and further states fire potential will increase to above normal in the lower elevations of the Southwest in May and June; and

Whereas, public lands and private facilities in Northeastern New Mexico often enact seasonal fire restrictions and often prohibit fireworks due to their ability to start a wildfire; and

Whereas, some populations such as Veterans are sensitive to the noise of fireworks; and

Whereas, the Raton Humane Society has urged the Raton City Commission to consider the noise impact and traumatization of many domestic animals and pets and expressed dismay that the private use of fireworks, many of which are illegal, has often continued far beyond the allowable fireworks "season"; and

Whereas, the City of Raton Ordinance 130.161 states that the ignition of chasers and firecrackers are prohibited except for the period between June 20 and July 6 of each year, only between the hours of 9:00am and 10:00pm during the allowable period. Exceptions may be granted only by written permit from the City Manager; and

Whereas, the City of Raton Ordinance 130.161 Prohibited Fireworks section states that the following fireworks are prohibited at all times within the City of Raton: Aerial spinners, Helicopters, Mines, Missile-type rockets, Roman candles, Shells, and Stick-type rockets; and

Whereas, the City of Raton Ordinance 130.160 lists permissible fireworks as: cone fountains, crackling devices, cylindrical fountains, fitter sparklers, ground spinners, illuminating torches, and toy smoke devices and wheels; and

Whereas, the City of Raton Ordinance 130.158 states that "no person shall ignite any fireworks with a motor vehicle or throw fireworks from a motor vehicle, nor shall any person place or throw any ignited article of fireworks into or at a motor vehicle or at or near any person or group of people." And "no person shall discharge any fireworks within 100 feet of combustible vegetation."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, James Neil Segotta, Jr., Mayor of the City of Raton, New Mexico do hereby proclaim June 20-July 6, 2024 as

****Two Weeks of Fireworks Safety ****

And urge our citizens to only purchase legal fireworks, be cautious with their use of fireworks for fire safety and prevention, and to be courteous to neighbors and fellow citizens by following city ordinance.

CITY OF RATON

Desire'e Trujillo, City Clerk

James Neil Segotta Jr., Mayor

