



STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)

TO: Chair Yamamoto and Members of the CLSC Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Roke, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2025

TOPIC: 4th of July recap

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an update on the fireworks celebration event held on Thursday, July 4th, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2021-22 Budget process, the Hercules City Council voted to allocate funds to bring back a fireworks celebration show in July 2022. After a 10+ year hiatus, the City of Hercules partnered with the City of Pinole to provide a much-needed celebration.

The Hercules City Council allocated funding for a fireworks celebration here in Hercules in FY2022-23, only this time Pinole opted to hold a separate event. This trend continued in FY2023-24, and again in FY2024-25 during the budget process.

ANALYSIS:

In 2021, the Country was coming out of a worldwide pandemic, and the City of Hercules wanted to bring the community together. A joint task force was set up between Hercules and Pinole, to bring a fireworks show to the community to celebrate July 4, 2022. The event was well attended with approximately 2,000 people up and down the bayfront.

In 2023, staff met with the same stakeholders over the course of several months to plan out the event. The City used the same pyro tech company, and held the same 20 minute show. The biggest difference was the City of Hercules was on their own for the event.

In 2024, staff prepared for the same event, using the same pyro-tech company, and working with all of the key stakeholders to bring the City of Hercules a fabulous event. Leading up to the event, both Pinole and San Pablo decided to hold a drone show instead. So once again the City of Hercules was one of the only cities in West County holding a Fireworks show. The City of Hercules worked with Taste of the World to bring 6 food trucks to the event. The city blocked off Bayfront Blvd to ensure that first responders could have access in case anything went wrong. An estimated 7,000 people attended this year's event. Parking will always be an issue using this location. We will work to continue to strive to make any

necessary changes to hold this event, or move to discontinue the event and look at other options for the community.

On July 4, 2025, the City of Hercules held the 4th consecutive fireworks celebration for the community. Staff again prepared for the same event, using the same pyro-tech company, and working with all of the key stakeholders. Taste of the World brought 5 food trucks to the event. The city blocked off Bayfront Blvd with Traffic Control Pros, to ensure that first responders could have access in case anything went wrong. An estimated 7,000 people attended this year's event. The biggest difference this year was the change of command from RHFD to ConFire. This was a seamless transition.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In addition to the funding that was allocated for the 2025 Fireworks celebration, and the decision for our neighbors to choose other event options, lead to an overpopulated event. City Staff will need to evaluate and plan for any and all future events that may be held at the Bayfront going forward.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. None