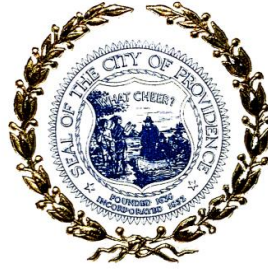


Jo-Ann Ryan
Majority Leader
Councilwoman - Ward 5
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COMMITTEES
Ordinances, Chairwoman
Finance, Vice-Chairwoman
State Legislative Affairs
Rules
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
Providence Water Authority

VIA EMAIL

June 22, 2020

Elizabeth M. Tanner, Esq., Director
Department of Business Regulations
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston RI, 02920

RE: Sale of Fireworks in the State of Rhode Island

Dear Director Tanner,

I write to you today to ask you for your help in addressing the serious quality of life issues that we are facing in Providence around Fireworks.

Many stores in Providence and around the state are selling fireworks - all of which are illegal per Rhode Island General Law Section 11-13-01. Over the past few weeks, I have received hundreds of phone calls from constituents, as have my colleagues.

At our next regularly scheduled City Council meeting, I will be introducing a resolution requesting the Department of Business Regulations to fully enforce the regulations around the sale of fireworks across the state, including Providence.

Due to the significant increase in the amount and intensity of the fireworks in the City, I have been working with the Mayor's team on creating a public service announcement, a social media campaign along with working with our Board of Licenses to crackdown on and inform Providence license holders of the penalties regarding the illegal sale of fireworks in the City.

I want to discuss with you how the City and State can coordinate our efforts to serve our residents better. Fireworks have many adverse effects on our residents, especially the elderly; those who have PTSD like war veterans; families with small children; and can be very traumatizing to family pets.

My scheduler will reach out to your office to set up a virtual meeting so we can discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann Ryan, Majority Leader
Providence City Council
Councilwoman – Ward 5

CC: Mayor Jorge O. Elorza; Providence Board of Licenses; Commissioner of Public Safety Pare; Chief Hugh Clements; Rhode Island State Police