

RESOLUTION NO. 902

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO BAN THE SALE AND
DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON DURING 1992**

WHEREAS the state of Washington is in one of the earliest fire seasons it has experienced with three major fires already having occurred, one in Skykomish, one on the Yakima Indian Reservation, and one in the Okanogan National Forest; and

WHEREAS the state is experiencing a severe water shortage and drought as well as the drying out of local vegetation types during the month of June which would not normally be experienced, if at all, until August; and

WHEREAS a significant portion of the state's housing is built within or adjacent to heavy stands of foliage and trees, better known as the urban/wildland interface, and that most of these homes and apartments are wood construction with shake shingle roofs; and

WHEREAS the combination of the high fire danger, severe drought, and water shortage poses a serious problem for fire fighting operations in the event of a fire in the urban/wildland interface, and the introduction of fireworks into the fire danger-drought-water shortage equation exponentially increases the probability of catastrophe for all our residents; and

WHEREAS fireworks were responsible nationally for over 11,000 injuries during 1990 as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars of property loss annually, with much of the injuries and property loss being caused by so-called "safe and sane" fireworks; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that many non-profit organizations depend upon the sales of fireworks to raise money, it is further recognized that the cost of the fire losses due to fireworks started fires can far outweigh the total money raised by such sales; and

WHEREAS it is a basic fundamental right and obligation of local government to protect its citizens from emergency conditions which pose threats to life and property as well as from ongoing dangerous conditions or activities;

WHEREAS numerous cities, including the city of Redmond, have already heretofore banned the sale and use of fireworks for this year because of the severe fire danger confronting our state; and

WHEREAS individual cities prohibiting sales and discharge due to the fire danger is at best a piecemeal approach for a statewide problem and may in fact cause people to use fireworks in areas lacking restrictions which are probably also the areas with the least capabilities to handle the significant fire danger posed; and

WHEREAS only a statewide ban this year on sales and discharge of fireworks, based upon a declared fire emergency, will address a statewide issue on a statewide basis;

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

That it formally requests the Governor of the state of Washington to declare a state of fire emergency under RCW 38.52, and because of the severe fire conditions that exist throughout the state and the risk that the sale and subsequent discharge of fireworks pose to all the residents of Washington because of that fire danger, that further the Governor ban the sale and discharge of fireworks throughout the state this year thus assuring uniform mitigation of this most serious problem.

RESOLVED this 16th day of June, 1992.

APPROVED:


MAYOR, ROSEMARIE IVES

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


CITY CLERK, DORIS A. SCHAIBLE

FILED WITH CITY CLERK: June 16, 1992
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: June 16, 1992
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