

Should fireworks be banned?

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Statement

No one should be allowed to buy or use fireworks at any time within city boundaries.

Point

- Fireworks are dangerous mixtures of chemicals. When ignited, they can explode in unpredictable ways. People have been terribly injured through the unsafe use of fireworks.
- Fireworks displays pollute the environment. The reactants involved produce nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide, both of which are poisonous gases and produce acid precipitation. Fireworks also create noise pollution.
- Fireworks are very expensive and last only a few seconds. We would be better off using the money to celebrate special occasions in other ways.

Counterpoint

- Fireworks are a traditional way of celebrating a special occasion in some cultures. The move to prevent fireworks could be seen as discriminating against those groups.
- People who want to use fireworks will continue to do so outside the city. In wooded areas or farmlands far from emergency services, the risk of fire or accident would be greater.
- Fireworks displays that mark special events promote tourism and bring economic benefits to the community.